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Bishop Seitz Visits with Holy Father



The Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz and the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, Rev. Benjamin Flores-Ruiz visit with the Holy Father, Pope Francis during the Region X Bishops of Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma's Ad Limina visit January 20 through January 24. See page 2 for Bishop Seitz's reflection on his visit to the Eternal City. *Photo courtesy of the Vatican Office of Communications*

Southwest March for Life a Great Success



The annual Southwest March for Life last month was once again a success! About 1800 people showed up to celebrate life and be a voice for the unborn. *Story on Page 6 Photo by Fernie Ceniceros*

INSIDE:

Diocese mourns Msgrs. Smith and Calles
Pages 4-5

Capital Campaign Updates
Page 7

What You Need to Know About the Census
Page 10

Defending the Most Defensless
Page 14

Catholic Foundation Welcomes New fund
Page 15

Prayers Transcend time

After ordering my decaf americano at my corner coffee shop, my number one priority was to find the comfiest chair in the house. Mission accomplished; Operation Comfy Chair was in full effect. With my trusty wireless earbuds, my coffee, and my laptop fired up and ready to go, I had one problem: what do I listen to? Usually for this sort of work, I like to listen to music without lyrics, like classical music or jazz. But this particular day, I was feeling adventurous. So what did I do? I decided to live life on the edge and put my entire music library on shuffle.

One of the perks of my job at the diocese is being the diocesan photographer. Whenever people ask what I'm up to these days, I always give the answer, "I do what I did in high school, only now I actually get paid for it and I don't get in as much trouble as I used to." Editing photos is where I get to just pour myself



Fernie Ceniceros

into my work. I am very fortunate and I thank God everyday for giving me this skill.

So there I was, sitting in my comfy chair with my cup of coffee and I started digging through the 100 or so photos I needed to rank and edit. As I clicked furiously, the music landed on a song that was in my heavy rotation 10 years ago. I stopped dead in my tracks. All of a sudden it's 2010. It's amazing how music can just teleport you back to a very specific time. For me, this song takes me to a not-so-happy point in my life.

This particular song, The Fisherman's Song by the indie band Mae, was frequently on repeat during the early part of that year, particularly over the season of Lent. 2010 was one of the toughest years in my career in public relations. At that time, I had been employed with one of the local school districts for almost seven years.

That year of 2010 God graced me with a difficult work situation involving the department I was in, and almost daily anxiety attacks. I was forced to ask myself questions. Why was I having these panic attacks? How can you help me feel better Lord? My prayers were always focused on removing the problem that was affecting me in the moment so I could go about my merry way and not have to deal with any underlying issues that were causing my anxiety.

I was so despondent that I felt it was very necessary for me to visit a Blessed Sacrament Chapel

every single day. I usually prayed the vespers for the day, and I would sit in silence in His presence for about half an hour or so. That time with Our Lord was a way to combat the almost daily panic attack that would come as soon as I got home to my apartment, and for a time, it did subside my panic attacks.

As I made it through the rest of that year and the rest of my time in that district, the panic attacks subsided. Several years later, I moved to a different school district. At that time, I felt that my prayers had been answered.

This January 21st, I reached the milestone of my first year with the diocese. As I reflect on the last ten years of my life, I think back to the time I spent in prayer and reflection with our Lord ten years ago. I have realized that, although I was praying for deliverance from a difficult situation, God's answer to my prayers was much bigger than that. His answer was not

just about my problems during that time in my life. Rather, the Lord has revealed to me that His answers to prayers transcend time and are not just about what is hindering us in any troubling moment.

He has revealed to me that the answer to my prayers was all in His time. Ten years of big struggles have led to even bigger successes. Ten years of learning new skills, nurturing old and new relationships, and personal and professional growth have eventually led me to the service of you, the people of God in the Diocese of El Paso.

So let me take this time to thank you, the people of our diocese, for your prayers. Thank you Lord Jesus for the gift of your presence in the Blessed Sacrament. All of this is not possible without your love and mercy. I will continue to pray that you always find a place for me where I am of service to you and your people, the people of God.

La Oración Trasciende el Tiempo

D espués de ordenar mi descafeinado americano en mi cafetería de la esquina, mi prioridad número uno era encontrar la silla más cómoda de la casa. Misión cumplida; Operation Comfy Chair estaba en pleno efecto. Con mis confiables auriculares inalámbricos, mi café y mi computadora portátil encendidos y listos para funcionar, tuve un problema: ¿qué escucho? Por lo general, para este tipo de trabajo, me gusta escuchar música sin letra, como la música clásica o el jazz. Pero este día en particular, me sentía aventurero. ¿Entonces qué hice? Decidí vivir la vida al límite y poner toda mi biblioteca de música en orden aleatorio.

Una de las ventajas de mi trabajo en la diócesis es ser el fotógrafo diocesano. Cuando la gente pregunta qué estoy haciendo en estos días, siempre respondo: "Hago lo que hice en la escuela secundaria, solo que ahora me pagan y no me meto

en tantos problemas como solía hacerlo. Editar fotos es donde me pongo a trabajar. Soy muy afortunado y le agradezco a Dios todos los días por darme esta habilidad.

Así que allí estaba, sentado en mi cómoda silla con mi taza de café y comencé a buscar entre las 100 fotos que necesitaba para clasificar y editar. Cuando hice clic furiosamente, la música aterrizó en una canción que estaba en mi fuerte rotación hace 10 años. Me detuve en seco. De repente, es 2010. Es sorprendente cómo la música puede teletransportarte a un momento muy específico. Para mí, esta canción me lleva a un punto no tan feliz de mi vida.

Esta canción en particular, The Fisherman's Song de la banda independiente Mae, se repitió con frecuencia durante la primera parte de ese año, especialmente durante la temporada de Cuaresma. 2010 fue uno de los años más difíciles en mi carrera en relaciones públicas. En ese momen-

to, había estado empleado en uno de los distritos escolares locales durante casi siete años.

Ese año de 2010 Dios me honró con una situación de trabajo difícil que involucraba el departamento en el que estaba y ataques de ansiedad casi diarios. Me vi obligado a hacerme preguntas. ¿Por qué estaba teniendo estos ataques de pánico? ¿Cómo puedes ayudarme a sentirme mejor Señor? Mis oraciones siempre se enfocaron en eliminar el problema que me estaba afectando en ese momento para que pudiera seguir mi camino alegre y no tener que lidiar con ningún problema subyacente que causara mi ansiedad.

Estaba tan abatido que sentí que era muy necesario que visitara una Capilla del Santísimo Sacramento todos los días. Por lo general, rezaba las vísperas por el día, y me sentaba en silencio en su presencia durante aproximadamente media hora más o menos. Ese tiempo con Nuestro

Señor fue una forma de combatir el ataque de pánico casi diario que se producía tan pronto como llegara a mi apartamento, y por un tiempo, disminuyó mis ataques de pánico.

Mientras sobrevivía el resto de ese año y el resto de mi tiempo en ese distrito, los ataques de pánico disminuyeron. Varios años después, me mudé a un distrito escolar diferente. En ese momento, sentí que mis oraciones habían sido respondidas.

Este 21 de enero, alcancé el hito de mi primer año con la diócesis. Al reflexionar sobre los últimos diez años de mi vida, recuerdo el tiempo que pasé en oración y reflexión con nuestro Señor hace diez años. Me di cuenta de que, aunque estaba orando por la liberación de una situación difícil, la respuesta de Dios a mis oraciones fue mucho más grande que eso. Su respuesta no fue solo sobre mis problemas durante ese tiempo en mi vida. Más bien, el Señor me ha

revelado que sus respuestas a las oraciones trascienden el tiempo y no se trata solo de lo que nos está obstaculizando en cualquier momento problemático.

Me ha revelado que la respuesta a mis oraciones estaba en su tiempo. Diez años de grandes luchas han llevado a éxitos aún mayores. Diez años de aprender nuevas habilidades, fomentar relaciones viejas y nuevas, y el crecimiento personal y profesional finalmente me han llevado al servicio de ustedes, el pueblo de Dios en la Diócesis de El Paso.

Déjenme aprovechar este momento para agradecerles a ustedes, la gente de nuestra diócesis, por sus oraciones. Gracias Señor Jesús por el regalo de tu presencia en el Santísimo Sacramento. Todo esto no es posible sin tu amor y misericordia. Continuaré rezando para que siempre encuentres un lugar para mí donde esté al servicio de ti y de tu pueblo, el pueblo de Dios.

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499 St. Matthews St.
El Paso, TX 79907
Phone: (915) 872-8414
Fax: (915) 872-8435

Publisher: Most Rev. Mark J. Seitz, D.D.

Twitter: @BishopSeitz

Editor: Fernie Ceniceros

Twitter: @FCenicerosphoto

Advertising Manager: Norma Muñoz

Spanish Translation: Fernie Ceniceros, Norma Muñoz

Contributors: Janet M. Crowe, Fr. Wilson Cuevas

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INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH

Roman Reflections: We are Not Forgotten!

We often think of ourselves as living off in a forgotten corner of the world. We even wonder at times if our fellow Texans know that we are part of our State.

I have just returned from the city that you might call the Capital of the Catholic Church, the city of Rome. It is a long journey crossing 8 time zones. The trip is a Pilgrimage required for Bishops which takes place about every 8 years. The official short name is "Ad Limina Apostolorum", a Latin title which translates, "To the Threshold of the Apostles". We go as part of regions of the Church in the U.S. Our region is made up of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. We are made up of 18 Dioceses. 26 Bishops were part of our group. We are one of the largest regions in terms of the number of Dioceses that make us up.

The trip is intended primarily as a spiritual journey to strengthen the connections with our roots as a Church and particularly to strengthen our mission as Bishops to continue the work that Jesus first entrusted to the Apostles to preach, teach and baptize in his name. To do this we go to the place where the two primary foundation stones upon which Jesus built his Church, St.s Peter and Paul, gave the ultimate witness.

We concretize our closeness to that foundation by praying and celebrating Mass together at the four major Basilica church-

es of Rome: St. John Lateran, which is the Pope's Cathedral; St. Peter's Basilica, which is the place where St. Peter is buried; St. Paul's Outside the Walls; where St. Paul is buried; and St. Mary Major, the earliest Church in Rome that was dedicated to Mary.

Of course, an unforgettable highlight of the trip is the audience with the Successor of St. Peter, Pope Francis. Even a brief encounter with him would have been a memorable treat. Jesus promised that through the ministry of Peter and his successors the Church would always have the assurance of the Holy Spirit to guide her and keep her faithful. The Pope represents the unity that all the Bishops have as they carry on the work of Christ. Through them the whole Church, despite the weakness and sinfulness of all the members, has the promise that Christ will be present and at work until the end of time.

Well, at our audience the Pope didn't limit himself to only a meet and greet. After graciously greeting and speaking to a group of priests and seminarians who joined us, he sat down and visited with us for more than 2½ hours! There were no formal presentations. Each Bishop had presented an in depth report on the life of the Church in our dioceses some six months ago. The Holy Father just invited us to raise to him anything we wished to inform him about or to ask. We had a far ranging

discussion of trends that we see in our region and in the Church as a whole. The Pope shared concerns and priorities of his.

One thing that came across clearly, and this may sound strange, is how deeply Catholic he is! Have you ever heard the rejoinder, "Is the Pope Catholic?", when a person is wondering if something is true. Well, in this time of turmoil and disappointment and rejection of practically every institution, I am happy to reassure you that the answer to the question about the Pope is, "YES"! Yes, he is Catholic to the core of his being!

Listening to him speak his deep love of Christ, his utter fidelity to Christ's teaching whether those teachings be in season or out, and his profound desire to follow the voice of the Holy Spirit came through loud and clear. What I think is difficult for many who are influenced by the secular spirit of our age is that a man such as this, so trusting in the power of the Spirit, is not afraid to open the door to a discussion of difficult questions. It is not a matter of having a prior agenda. It is a search for answers that often lie beyond what we feeble humans can conceive. Don't worry, the Church has a good captain at the helm!

The Pope had a couple real surprises in store for me personally in our encounter. When Fr. Ben Flores, the Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish and our Vicar General, and I introduced ourselves to him he looked



Bishop Mark J. Seitz



at me and exclaimed, "¡Este es el obispo de mucha fama!" "This is the very famous Bishop!" Apparently he had heard about our challenges here on the border and recognized me as the Bishop of this place. I received his greeting as a word of encouragement to all of our community for the powerful witness we have given in our welcome of people in need at our border in fidelity to the Gospel.

Later in our conversation with the Holy Father as a group I took the opportunity to remind him of the events that took place in El Paso on August 3rd. I told him that a man filled with hate had come from far away with the desire to shoot as many people of Mexican origin and immigrants as he could. I explained that 22 were killed and another 26 were wounded. I specifically mentioned Willie (Memo) Garcia who continues to fight for his life in Intensive Care.

My request of the Pope was that he would send me back to my Diocese with assurances of his blessings and prayers, especially for the victims and

their families. I expected him to simply give me that assurance. Instead he asked me, "How many rosaries would you like?" I was shocked by the question and unsure of how to answer. How many could I ask of the Holy Father? I blurted out, "20". He summoned an aide and whispered to him some instructions. Soon a large white bag was brought in to the Pope. It was the rosaries!

At the conclusion of our audience, Pope Francis beckoned me to come forward and handed me a bag heavy with rosaries. Not 20, but 50! I can hardly wait to offer these signs of the Holy Father's closeness and blessings to the families of those whose lives were so drastically changed on that awful day!

Yes, at times we in El Paso and all of west Texas may feel as though we are in a forgotten and unappreciated corner of the world. Some people may not give us our due. However that may be, that is not the case with the Vicar of Christ, Pope Francis! We are very much in his heart.

It's good to be home!

Reflexiones romanas: ¡No estamos olvidados!

Os que vivimos en El Paso a menudo pensamos en nosotros mismos como viviendo en un rincón olvidado del mundo. Incluso a veces nos preguntamos si nuestros compañeros tejanos saben que somos parte de nuestro estado.

Acabo de regresar de la ciudad que podrías llamar la Capital de la Iglesia Católica, la ciudad de Roma. Es un largo viaje que cruza 8 zonas horarias. El viaje es una peregrinación requerida para los obispos que se realiza aproximadamente cada 8 años. El nombre corto oficial es "Ad Limina Apostolorum", un título en latín que se traduce como "Al umbral de los apóstoles". Vamos como parte de regiones de la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos. Nuestra región está compuesta por Texas, Oklahoma y Arkansas. Estamos compuestos de 18 diócesis. 26 obispos eran parte de nuestro grupo. Somos una de las regiones más grandes en términos de la cantidad de diócesis que nos componen.

El viaje está pensado principalmente como un viaje espiritual para fortalecer las conexiones con nuestras raíces como Iglesia y particularmente para fortalecer nuestra misión como

Obispos de continuar el trabajo que Jesús confió por primera vez a los Apóstoles para predicar, enseñar y bautizar en su nombre. Para hacer esto, vamos al lugar donde las dos piedras fundamentales sobre las cuales Jesús construyó su Iglesia, San Pedro y San Pablo, dieron el máximo testimonio.

Para concretar nuestra cercanía a esa base, rezamos y celebramos la Misa juntos en las cuatro principales iglesias basílicas de Roma: San Juan de Letrán, que es la Catedral del Papa; Basílica de San Pedro, que es el lugar donde está enterrado San Pedro; San Pablo fuera de los muros; donde está enterrado san Pablo; y Santa María Mayor, la Iglesia más antigua de Roma que se dedicó a María.

Por supuesto, lo más destacado del viaje es la audiencia con el Sucesor de San Pedro, el Papa Francisco. Incluso un breve encuentro con él habría sido un regalo memorable. Jesús prometió que a través del ministerio de Pedro y sus sucesores, la Iglesia siempre tendría la seguridad del Espíritu Santo para guiarla y mantenerla fiel. El Papa representa la unidad que tienen todos los obispos mientras llevan a cabo la obra

de Cristo. A través de ellos, toda la Iglesia, a pesar de la debilidad y el pecado de todos los miembros, tiene la promesa de que Cristo estará presente y en el trabajo hasta el final de los tiempos.

Bueno, en nuestra audiencia, el Papa no se limitó a solo conocer y saludar. Después de saludar amablemente y hablar con un grupo de sacerdotes y seminaristas que se unieron a nosotros, se sentó y nos visitó por más de 2 horas y media. No hubo presentaciones formales. Cada obispo había presentado un informe en profundidad sobre la vida de la Iglesia en nuestras diócesis hace unos seis meses. El Santo Padre simplemente nos invitó a plantearle cualquier cosa que quisieramos informarle o preguntarle. Tuvimos una discusión de gran alcance sobre las tendencias que vemos en nuestra región y en la Iglesia en general. El Papa compartió preocupaciones y prioridades suyas.

Una cosa que se vio claramente, y esto puede sonar extraño, ¡es lo profundamente católico que es! ¿Alguna vez ha escuchado la réplica, "¿Es el Papa católico?", Cuando una persona se pregunta si algo es cierto, bueno, en este momen-

to de confusión, desilusión y rechazo de prácticamente todas las instituciones, estoy feliz de asegurarle que la respuesta ¡La pregunta sobre el Papa es "SÍ"! ¡Sí, él es católico hasta el fondo de su ser!

Al escucharlo hablar de su profundo amor a Cristo, su total fidelidad a las enseñanzas de Cristo, ya sea que esas enseñanzas sean de temporada o no, y su profundo deseo de seguir la voz del Espíritu Santo se hizo patente. Lo que creo que es difícil para muchos que están influenciados por el espíritu secular de nuestra época es que un hombre como este, tan confiado en el poder del Espíritu, no tiene miedo de abrir la puerta a una discusión sobre preguntas difíciles. No se trata de tener una agenda previa. Es una búsqueda de respuestas que a menudo van más allá de lo que los humanos débiles pueden concebir. ¡No se preocupe, la Iglesia tiene un buen capitán al timón!

El Papa tenía un par de sorpresas reales para mí personalmente en nuestro encuentro. Cuando el p. Ben Flores, el Pastor de la Parroquia del Santísimo Sacramento y nuestro Vicario General, y me presenté a él, me miró y exclamó:

"¡Este es el obispo de mucha fama!" "¡Este es el muy famoso obispo!" Aparentemente había escuchado sobre nuestros desafíos aquí en la frontera y me reconoció como el Obispo de este lugar. Recibí su saludo como una palabra de aliento a toda nuestra comunidad por el poderoso testimonio que hemos dado en nuestra bienvenida a las personas necesitadas en nuestra frontera en fidelidad al Evangelio.

Más adelante en nuestra conversación con el Santo Padre como grupo, aproveché la oportunidad para recordarle los eventos que tuvieron lugar en El Paso el 3 de agosto. Le dije que un hombre lleno de odio había venido de muy lejos con el deseo de disparar a tantas personas de origen mexicano e inmigrantes como pudiera. Le expliqué que 22 fueron asesinados y otros 26 resultaron heridos. Mencioné específicamente a Willie (Memo) García que continúa luchando por su vida en Cuidados Intensivos.

Mi petición al Papa fue que me enviara de regreso a mi diócesis con garantías de sus bendiciones y oraciones, especialmente por las víctimas.

continuado en la pagina 4

Diocese Mourns the Loss of Msgr. Calles

By Fernie Ceniceros

Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

The Reverend Monsignor Robert Calles, 87 of the Diocese of El Paso, passed from this life into his Father's house peacefully on Thursday, January 16.

Msgr. Calles was born on November 1, 1933, in Alamogordo, New Mexico, son of Elias and Delfina Calles. Msgr. Calles studied for the priesthood at the Seminary of Our Lady of the Angels in New York. He was ordained to the priesthood at St. Patrick Cathedral on May 22, 1963, by The Most Reverend Sydney Metzger, 3rd Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso.

He served the Diocese at various posts throughout his



Msgr. Robert Calles. Photo Courtesy of the Calles Family

priesthood. They include being a Pastor at Our Lady of Peace in Alpine, Texas. Pastor at St. Paul the Apostle in the Mission Valley. Pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Central El Paso. And finally,

he served as Pastor at Most Holy Trinity in Northeast El Paso. In May of 1988, Msgr. Calles was named Chaplain to His Holiness Saint Pope John Paul II.

He retired in 2010 after 47 years of service to the Diocese of El Paso.

In 2013, he celebrated his Golden Anniversary to the priesthood with a Mass at Most Holy Trinity in Northeast El Paso. Msgr. Calles also served as Chancellor for the Diocese of El Paso in the late '70s and early '80s.

Priests from around the Diocese remember his friendly disposition and his need for his brother priests to feel the fraternal bond that brought them together.

"He had a great sense of humor. He was always very caring for his people, Retired Preist, Fr. James "Buzz," Hall said. "He was an amazing pastor and was very committed to his people. I believe that throughout his priesthood, he wanted to show that Jesus would have wanted us to care for all people," He said.

Fr. Ralph Solis, Pastor at San Felipe de Jesus in Socorro, shared his insights into how Msgr. Calles was a good friend to him in his priesthood.

"I got to know Msgr. Calles because of my parents with my dad being one of his Deacons at St. Joseph, Fr. Solis said. "I made it a point to sit with him at the presbyteral assemblies and share pleasant conversations about

how my parents were doing, and maybe talk about old times at St. Joseph," Fr. Solis said.

The loss of Msgr. Calles affected Father Solis; he shares what a profound loss the Diocese has experienced with his passing.

"He was a link to our past, and I do feel a sense of wloss for us priests and our diocese," he said. "My family and I felt a sense of profound loss upon hearing about his passing," he ended.

Visitation for Msgr. Calles will be on February 7 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. The Funeral Mass for Msgr. Robert Calles will be on February 8 at Our Lady of Mt Carmel; his body will be buried at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Diócesis lamenta la pérdida de Mons. Calles

By Fernie Ceniceros

Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

El reverendo monseñor Robert Calles, 87 de la diócesis de El Paso, pasó pacíficamente de esta vida a la casa de su padre el jueves 16 de enero.

Mons. Calles nació el 1 de noviembre de 1933 en Alamogordo, Nuevo México, hijo de Elias y Delfina Calles. Mons. Calles estudió para el sacerdocio en el Seminario de Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles en Nueva York. Fue ordenado sacerdote en la Catedral de San Patricio el 22 de mayo de 1963 por el Reverendísimo Sydney Metzger, 3er Obis-

po de la Diócesis de El Paso.

Sirvió a la Diócesis en varios puestos a lo largo de su sacerdocio. Incluyen ser un pastor en Nuestra Señora de la Paz en Alpine, Texas. Pastor de San Pablo Apóstol en el Valle de la Misión. Pastor en la Parroquia St. Joseph en el centro de El Paso. Y finalmente, se desempeñó como Pastor en Most Holy Trinity en el noreste de El Paso. En mayo de 1988, Mons. Calles fue nombrado capellán de Su Santidad el Papa Juan Pablo II.

Se retiró en 2010 después de 47 años de servicio a la Diócesis de El Paso. En 2013, celebró su aniversario de oro al sacer-

docio con una misa en Most Holy Trinity en el noreste de El Paso. Mons. Calles también se desempeñó como canciller de la Diócesis de El Paso a fines de los años 70 y principios de los 80.

Los sacerdotes de toda la diócesis recuerdan su disposición amigable y su necesidad de que sus hermanos sacerdotes sientan el vínculo fraternal que los unió.

"Tenía un gran sentido del humor. Siempre se preocupó mucho por su gente, Retired Preist, p. James "Buzz," dijo Hall. "Era un pastor increíble y estaba muy comprometido con su gente. Creo que a lo largo de su sacerdocio, él quería mostrar que

Jesús hubiera querido que cuidámos a todas las personas ", dijo.

El p. Ralph Solis, pastor de San Felipe de Jesús en Socorro, compartió sus ideas sobre cómo Mons. Calles era un buen amigo para él en su sacerdocio.

"Llegué a conocer a Mons. Calles porque mis padres con mi padre siendo uno de sus diáconos en St. Joseph, Fr. Solis dijo. "Me propuse sentarme con él en las asambleas presbiterales y compartir conversaciones agradables sobre cómo estaban mis padres, y tal vez hablar sobre los viejos tiempos en St. Joseph", dijo el p. Solis dijo.

La pérdida de Mons. Calles

afectó al padre Solís; él comparte la profunda pérdida que la Diócesis ha experimentado con su fallecimiento.

"Él fue un vínculo con nuestro pasado, y siento una profunda pérdida para nosotros los sacerdotes y nuestra diócesis", dijo. "Mi familia y yo sentimos una profunda pérdida al enterarnos de su fallecimiento", finalizó.

Visitas a Mons. Calles será el 7 de febrero en Nuestra Señora del Monte. Iglesia del Carmelo. La misa fúnebre de Mons. Robert Calles estará el 8 de febrero en Our Lady of Mt Carmel; su cuerpo será enterrado en el cementerio de Mount Carmel.

continuado del a pagina 3

mas y sus familias. Esperaba que simplemente me diera esa seguridad. En su lugar, me preguntó: "¿Cuántos rosarios te gustaría?". Me sorprendió la pregunta y no sabía cómo responder. ¿Cuántos podría pedirle al Santo Padre? Solté, "20". Llamó a un ayudante y le susurró algunas instrucciones. Pronto una gran bolsa blanca fue traída al Papa. ¡Eran los rosarios!

Al concluir nuestra audiencia, el Papa Francisco me hizo señas para que se acercara y me entregó una bolsa llena de rosarios. ¡No 20, sino 50! ¡Casi no puedo esperar para ofrecer estos signos de cercanía y bendiciones del Santo Padre a

las familias de aquellos cuyas vidas cambiaron tan drásticamente en ese horrible día!

Sí, a veces nosotros en El Paso y en todo el oeste de Texas podemos sentir que estamos en un rincón olvidado y poco apreciado del mundo. Es posible que algunas personas no nos den lo que debemos. Sea como sea, ¡ese no es el caso del Vicario de Cristo, el Papa Francisco! Estamos muy en su corazón.

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Valentin Cota, MNM	2/14
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Francisco Osnaya, OFM Conv.	2/21

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Sergio (Roberto) Hernandez, OFM 2/2/1963

Diocese Mourns the loss of Rev. Msgr. Smith

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

The El Paso community is mourning the loss of Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Smith, P.A., a longtime fixture at St. Raphael Parish and the Diocese of El Paso. Msgr. Smith served as a founding board member of the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso and was passionate about supporting priests in retirement and St. Raphael School. He retired in 2015 after serving St. Raphael Parish for 29 years.

Francis J. Smith was born in Chicago on May 20, 1934. He was the grandchild of Eastern European immigrants who came through Ellis Island and were renamed Smith when no one could pronounce their family name. He attended Catholic schools and ran the streets with his brother, Freddy, who was only 10 months younger. His father was a steelworker and his mother was a strict disciplinarian. His Chicago working class upbringing drove his approach to the priesthood and he has been described as unique, straightforward, and street smart.

Msgr. Smith served at St. Joseph Parish as an associate, All Saints Parish as pastor as well as at St. Pius X Parish when he was given the title of Mons-

gnor, and finally at St. Raphael Parish where he would serve the school and parish for three decades. In honor of his retirement, an endowed scholarship fund for St. Raphael School was established in his name. The Reverend Monsignor Francis J. Smith Scholarship Fund for St. Raphael School provides scholarships for young students who could not otherwise afford to attend St. Raphael Catholic School; these students are known as the Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Smith Scholars.

Msgr. Smith was honored as the first recipient of the Foundation's Dei Gratia Award during the 9th Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner on September 17, 2015. The crowd laughed when Msgr. Smith quoted another Chicago native, Jack Benny, as he accepted his award with Benny's famous line: "I don't deserve this award, but I have arthritis and I don't deserve that either." On a serious note he said, he "always saw God in the people he served". Msgr. Smith was ordained on May 25, 1967 and served the Diocese of El Paso as a priest for 48 years. He continued to serve on boards and give of his time, resources, and expertise following his retirement in 2015.

The Dei Gratia Award, Latin



Msgr. Smith Passed into his Father's home on January 24, 2020. Photo Courtesy Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso.

for "By the Grace of God", recognizes an individual, couple, or organization for their servant leadership, outstanding contribution to the Diocese of El Paso and our Catholic community, and their dedication to being good stewards of God's grace.

Msgr. Smith was passionate about taking care of priests in their retirement and St. Raphael School. Therefore, the Founda-

tion is inviting the community to support the Retired Priest Appreciation Fund and the Reverend Monsignor Francis J. Smith Scholarship Fund for St. Raphael School in memory of Msgr. Smith. It is said that Msgr. Smith told many brides and Quinceañeras that flowers were a waste of money so honoring him with donations that will directly impact the lives of

his brother priests and Catholic school students are great ways to honor his legacy. Gifts in any amount are welcome and will provide funding for the causes Msgr. Smith loved.

For more information, please contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at 915-872-8412 or slarkin@elpasodiocese.org.

La Diócesis lamenta la pérdida del Rev. Mons. Smith

Por Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

La comunidad de El Paso está de luto por la pérdida del Rev. Mons. Francis J. Smith, P.A., miembro de la parroquia St. Raphael y la Diócesis de El Paso. Mons. Smith fue miembro de la junta fundadora de la Fundación para la Diócesis de El Paso y fue un apasionado de apoyar a los sacerdotes en la jubilación y la Escuela St. Raphael. Se retiró en 2015 después de servir en la Parroquia de San Rafael por 29 años.

Francis J. Smith nació en Chicago el 20 de mayo de 1934. Era el nieto de inmigrantes de Europa del Este que llegaron a Ellis Island y cambiaron su nombre a Smith cuando nadie podía pronunciar su apellido. Asistió a escuelas católicas y recorrió las calles con su hermano Freddy, que era solo 10 meses más joven. Su padre era un trabajador siderúrgico y su madre era una estricta disciplinaria. Su educación en la clase trabajadora de Chicago impulsó su acercamiento al sacerdocio y ha sido descrito como único, directo e inteligente en la calle.

Mons. Smith sirvió en St. Joseph Parish como asociado, All Saints Parish como pastor, así como en St. Pius X Parish cuando recibió el título de Monseñor, y finalmente en St. Raphael Parish, donde serviría en la escuela y la parroquia. tres décadas. En honor a su retiro, se estableció un fondo de becas para la Escuela St. Raphael en su

nombre. El Fondo de Becas del Reverendo Monseñor Francis J. Smith para la Escuela St. Raphael ofrece becas para estudiantes jóvenes que de otro modo no podrían permitirse asistir a la Escuela Católica St. Raphael; estos estudiantes son conocidos como el Rev. Mons. Francis J. Smith Scholars.

Mons. Smith fue honrado como el primer recipiente del Premio Dei Gratia de la Fundación durante la novena cena anual de la Fundación de la Fe el 17 de septiembre de 2015. La multitud se rió cuando Mons. Smith citó a otro nativo de Chicago, Jack Benny, cuando aceptó su premio con la famosa frase de Benny: "No merezco este premio, pero tengo artritis y tampoco me lo merezco". En una nota seria, dijo, él "Siempre vi a Dios en las personas a las que servía". Mons. Smith fue ordenado el 25 de mayo de 1967 y sirvió a la Diócesis de El Paso como sacerdote durante 48 años. Continuó sirviendo en las juntas y dando su tiempo, recursos y experiencia después de su retiro en 2015.

El Premio Dei Gratia, en latín por "Por la gracia de Dios", reconoce a un individuo, pareja u organización por su liderazgo de servicio, contribución sobresaliente a la Diócesis de El Paso y nuestra comunidad católica, y su dedicación a ser buenos mayordomos de Dios. gracia.

Mons. A Smith le apasionaba cuidar a los sacerdotes en su retiro y en la escuela St. Raphael. Por lo tanto, la Fundación



Mons. Smith pasó a la casa de su padre el 24 de enero de 2020. Photo Courtesy Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso.

está invitando a la comunidad a apoyar el Fondo de Apreciación del Sacerdote Retirado y el Fondo de Becas del Reverendo Monseñor Francis J. Smith para la Escuela St. Raphael en memoria de Mons. Smith. Se dice que Mons. Smith les dijo a muchas novias y quinceañeras

que las flores eran un desperdicio de dinero, por lo que honrarlo con donaciones que impactarán directamente en la vida de sus hermanos sacerdotes y estudiantes de escuelas católicas son excelentes maneras de honrar su legado. Los obsequios en cualquier cantidad son bienvenidos y proporcionarán fondos para las causas. Smith amaba.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la Oficial Principal de Regalos, Sofia Larkin, al 915-872-8412 o slarkin@elpasodiocese.org.

Southwest March for Life a Success

By Gabriela Federico
Reverence for Life Coordinator

The annual Southwest March for Life last month was once again a success! About 1800 people showed up to celebrate life and be a voice for the unborn! Being part of this world-wide effort to each year take a stand and march for life has shown that the pro-life movement is the only movement that marches for those who cannot march for themselves – unborn babies. The Southwest March for Life was such a fun experience and it was led by El Paso Students for Life of America groups from EPCC, UTEP and NMSU! There is no doubt that this movement to save children from death and women from abortion is being led by the youth. And it was evident when you see all the youth that attended the march.

We began the event with a poetic and touching prayer by Fr. Mark Salas from Our Lady of Assumption, and I hope that he can share that with us, because it definitely touched my soul. Following him was a wonderful teaching by Pastor Jackson from Church. The Students for Life together with some youth groups

put on some viral-worthy skits that definitely encouraged me to continue the fight to protect babies and support women. Our main speaker, Kristen Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America gave an amazing and encouraging speech about living in a post-Roe vs. Wade America. Kristen is best known for her videos on social media debunking pro-choice questions at college campuses. Usually, people hate her responses. But that's because she is bold and will speak the truth of life using basic scientific facts and basic statistics.

Before hitting the streets and marching to Planned Parenthood, an epic proclamation from the city from El Paso was announced. And before the march was even over, media outlets had already labeled the proclamation as controversial and anti-abortion. The proclamation stated that January 18th is the "National Sanctity of Human Life Day," where pro-life organizations such as Guiding Star El Paso, Southwest Coalition for Life, Binational Pro-Life League and the annual Southwest March for Life were praised for "the tremendous efforts it has made to stop deaths of innocent unborn children..."



The annual Southwest March for Life last month was once again a success! About 1800 people showed up to celebrate life and be a voice for the unborn. *Photo by Fernie Ceniceros*

The proclamation was signed by our mayor, Dee Margo and we are so grateful for this!

When we arrived to Planned Parenthood, it was such a beautiful sight to pray over this building praying for the moms that are thinking about abortion and praying for a change of heart of all those that work for

Planned Parenthood. It was also a beautiful sight seeing the youth praying, chanting and holding their signs up high. We returned to the park to end with the Holy Mass by Fr. Fabian and Dcn. Frank Segura. We are grateful to end the event thanking God for the gift of life and the strength to encourage others to stand up for

life and get out to the abortion clinics to pray.

If you are searching for a way to get involved, call us to sign up for the next 40 Days for Life Campaign that starts on Ash Wednesday, 1-833-388-5433 or call the diocese at 915-872-8405.

"We are the pro-life generation and we will abolish abortion!"

Marcha por la Vida un Gran Éxito

By Gabriela Federico
Reverencia por Vida

¡La Marcha anual por la vida del suroeste del mes pasado fue una vez más un éxito! ¡Cerca de 1800 personas se presentaron para celebrar la vida y ser una voz para los no nacidos! Ser parte de este esfuerzo mundial para tomar cada año una posición y marchar por la vida ha demostrado que el movimiento pro-vida es el único movimiento que marcha para aquellos que no pueden marchar por sí mismos: los bebés no nacidos. ¡La Marcha del Suroeste por la Vida fue una experiencia muy divertida y fue dirigida por grupos de El Paso Students for Life of America de EPCC, UTEP y NMSU! No hay duda de que este movimiento para salvar a los niños de la muerte y a las mujeres del aborto está siendo liderado por los jóvenes. Y fue evidente cuando ves a todos los jóvenes que asistieron a la marcha.

Comenzamos la noche con una oración poética y conmovedora del Padre. Mark Salas de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, y espero que pueda compartir eso

con nosotros, porque definitivamente tocó mi alma. Seguirlo fue una maravillosa enseñanza del pastor Jackson de la Iglesia. Los Estudiantes por la Vida, junto con algunos grupos juveniles, presentaron algunas parodias virales que definitivamente me animaron a continuar la lucha para proteger a los bebés y apoyar a las mujeres. Nuestra oradora principal, Kristen Hawkins, presidenta de Students for Life of America, pronunció un discurso sorprendente y alentador acerca de vivir en una América posterior a Roe vs. Wade. Kristen es mejor conocida por sus videos en las redes sociales que desacreditan las preguntas pro elección en los campus universitarios. Por lo general, la gente odia sus respuestas. Pero eso se debe a que es audaz y hablará la verdad de la vida utilizando hechos científicos básicos y estadísticas básicas.

Antes de salir a la calle y marchar a Planned Parenthood, se anunció una proclamación épica de la ciudad de El Paso. Y antes de que la marcha terminara, los medios de comunicación ya habían etiquetado la proclamación como controvertida y antiabortista. La proclamación

declaró que el 18 de enero es el "Día nacional de la santidad de la vida humana", donde se elogió a organizaciones pro-vida como Guiding Star El Paso, Southwest Coalition for Life, Binational Pro-Life League y la Marcha anual por la vida del suroeste. los tremendos esfuerzos que ha hecho para detener la muerte de niños inocentes no nacidos ... "La proclamación fue firmada por nuestro alcalde, Dee Margo, ¡y estamos muy agradecidos por esto!

Cuando llegamos a Planned Parenthood, fue una vista tan hermosa rezar por este edificio rezando por las madres que están pensando en el aborto y rezando por un cambio de opinión de todas las personas que trabajan para Planned Parenthood. También fue una vista hermosa ver a los jóvenes rezando, cantando y sosteniendo sus carteles en alto. Regresamos al parque para terminar con la Santa Misa del Padre. Fabian y Dcn. Frank Segura. Estamos agradecidos de terminar el evento agradeciendo a Dios por el regalo de la vida y la fuerza para alentar a otros a defender la vida y salir a las clínicas de aborto para orar.



¡La Marcha anual por la vida del suroeste del mes pasado fue una vez más un éxito! Alrededor de 1800 personas se presentaron para celebrar la vida y ser una voz para los no nacidos. *Photo by Fernie Ceniceros*

Si está buscando una manera de involucrarse, llámenos para inscribirse en la próxima Campaña 40 días por la vida que comienza el Miércoles de Cen-

za, 1-833-388-5433 o llame a la diócesis al 915-872-8405.

"¡Somos la generación pro vida y aboliremos el aborto!"

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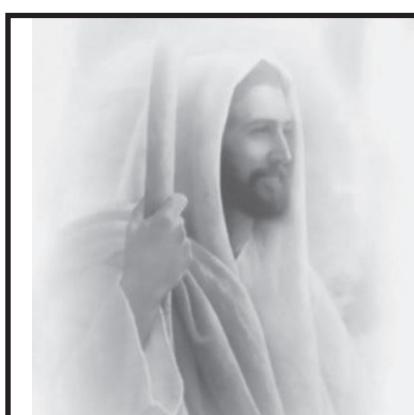
Wednesday - Friday 9 am -12 pm

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

Saturday 5 - 6

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

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



We Are the Body of Christ Updates

By Ivanna Salgado

Capital Campaign

As the Capital Campaign has unfolded with Bloc I, we've added 9 parishes to the Bloc. All 22 parishes are planned to complete this phase by March 2020. Bloc II Parishes are scheduled to start

April.

As a reminder, our goal is to raise 40% of the goal for seminarian and diaconate formation, 25% of the goal for our Catholic Schools and religious formation programs, and 15% of the goal for emergency funds for rural parishes. Each parish will receive

20% of the funds raised for their own local needs and the after goal has been surpassed, 50% of all funds over their goal remains with their parish

Thank you to the Bloc I parishes for their hard work. As we continue to fundraise for the capital campaign, the Capital

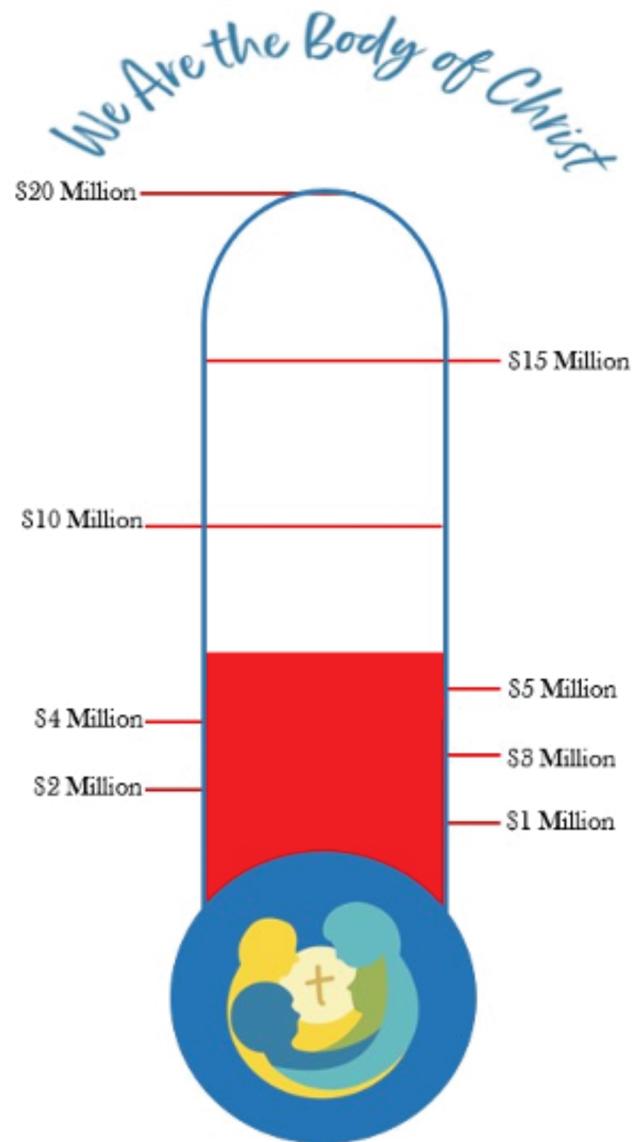
Campaign Team has expanded their team and is also making a transition. I, Ivanna Salgado, will be transitioning to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee by the end of January. Jose Rodriguez, Executive Director, will be taking over my role as a communications and fundraising director for the

remainder of the campaign.

If you have any questions regarding your pledge, please feel free to contact the Capital Campaign Team:

Mike Ramos, Senior Director: 915-872-8400 ext: 137
Jose Rodriguez, Executive Director: 915- 872-8400 ext: 453

PARISH	PASTOR	PARISH GOAL
All Saints	Rev. Juan Antonio Gutiérrez	\$105,000
Cristo Rey	Mr. Manny Barrios	\$235,000
El Buen Pastor	Rev. Fabian Marquez	\$115,000
Holy Family	Dcn. Robert Saucedo	\$125,000
Immaculate Conception	Rev. Kevin O'Neill	\$255,000
La Purisima	Rev. Angel Maldonado	\$250,000
Most Holy Trinity	Rev. Andy De Guzman	\$630,000
Our Lady of Assumption	Rev. Mark Salas	\$295,000
Our Lady of Fatima	Rev. Apolinario Samboni	\$100,000
Our Lady of Guadalupe-El Paso	Rev. Juan Antonio Gutiérrez	\$520,000
Our Lady of Guadalupe-Fabens	Rev. Célimo Osorio	\$115,000
Our Lady of the Light	Rev. Antonio Lasheras	\$150,000
Our Lady of the Miracles	Rev. Apolinario Samboni	\$15,000
Our Lady of the Valley	Rev. Don Adamski	\$485,000
San Judas	Rev. Miguel A. Sánchez	\$345,000
San Lorenzo	Rev. Tino Ortiz	\$210,000
Santa Teresita Mission	Rev. Miguel A. Sánchez	\$35,000
Santo Niño de Atocha	Rev. Frank Hernandez	\$325,000
St. Ignatius of Loyola	Rev. Tobias Macias	\$135,000
St. Mark	Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas	\$1,830,000
St. Patrick Cathedral	Rev. Trini Fuentez	\$825,000
St. Paul the Apostle	Rev. Pablo Matta	\$195,000
St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr	Rev. Joe Molina	\$700,000
TOTALS:		\$7,995,000



Actualizaciones: Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo

Por Ivanna Salgado

Capital Campaign

A medida que la Campaña Capital se ha desarrollado con el Bloque I, hemos agregado 9 parroquias al Bloque. Está previsto que las 22 parroquias completen esta fase en marzo de 2020. Las parroquias del Bloque II comien-

zarán en abril.

Como recordatorio, nuestra meta es aumentar el 40% de la meta para la formación de seminaristas y diaconados, el 25% de la meta para nuestras escuelas católicas y programas de formación religiosa, y el 15% de la meta para fondos de emergencia para parroquias rurales.

Cada parroquia recibirá el 20% de los fondos recaudados para sus propias necesidades locales y, una vez superado el objetivo, el 50% de todos los fondos que superen su objetivo permanecerá en su parroquia.

Gracias a las parroquias Bloc I por su arduo trabajo. A medida que continuamos recaudando

fondos para la campaña de capital, el Equipo de Campaña de Capital ha ampliado su equipo y también está haciendo una transición. Yo, Ivanna Salgado, haré la transición a la Arquidiócesis de Milwaukee a fines de enero. José Rodríguez, Director Ejecutivo, asumirá mi papel como director de comunicaciones y

recaudación de fondos durante el resto de la campaña.

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre su compromiso, no dude en comunicarse con el Equipo de la Campaña Capital:

Mike Ramos, Director senior: 915-872-8400 ext: 137

José Rodríguez, Director Ejecutivo: 915-872-8400 ext: 453

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Collection for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, February 22 and Sunday, February 23, 2020 for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe is actively involved in rebuilding the faith of its people and reestablishing its congregations after the fall of communism more than two decades ago. In most parts of the region, the Church cannot yet support its own renewal and growth.

This special collection helps restore the Church and build the future in 20 countries, many of which still struggle to recover in the aftermath of the Soviet rule. Funds from this collection help support reconstruction, education, formation and poverty outreach.



La Ofrenda Especial para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental

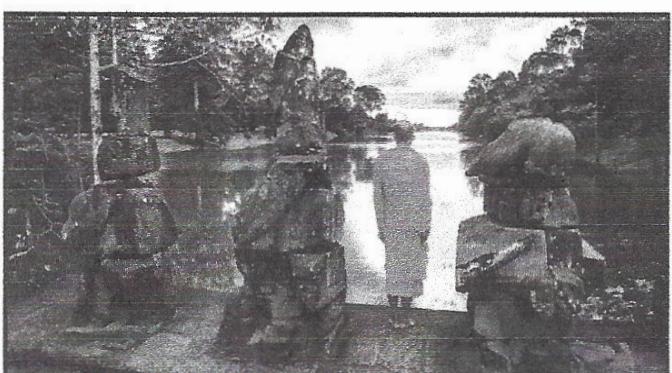
Habrá una Ofrenda Especial Anual el sábado 22 de febrero y el domingo 23 de febrero 2020, para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental.

La Iglesia en esta parte del mundo ha estado reedificando la fe de su gente y restableciendo sus congregaciones de hace más de dos décadas, con la caída del comunismo. En casi toda la región, la Iglesia no puede mantener aún su propio crecimiento y renovación.

Las donaciones de esta colecta ayudan a restaurar la Iglesia y construir el futuro en 20 países, muchos de los cuales todavía están luchando por recuperarse luego de haber estado bajo el régimen soviético. Los fondos de esta colecta financian la reconstrucción, la educación, la formación y los programas de extensión dirigido a los pobres.

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SLS20 Event Forms Missionary Disciples and Inspires Hope for the Future of the Church

DENVER, CO — Nearly 9,000 people registered for SLS20: You Were Made for Mission, presented by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), in Phoenix December 30, 2019 – January 3, 2020. Special guests included Cardinal Gerhard Müller of Germany and Archbishop Christoph Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. Along with the other speakers, they highlighted FOCUS as a light of hope for the future of the Church, while also challenging attendees to live out and share their faith as missionary disciples.

"Your peers are looking for the fulfillment of their desires," said Archbishop Pierre during his homily at Mass on Tuesday. "Often, they seek them in the things of the world, but these never satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart. It is your task as disciples and missionaries to show them the Way, mediating the encounter with Jesus — the Way, Truth, and Life. It is not easy, particularly as the world becomes more hostile to the life of Christian faith. Do not lose courage: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome the light."

In his homily during Wednesday's Mass, Cardinal Müller emphasized that God, who is eternal, cannot be changed by the whims of society. "In the concrete human being Jesus of Nazareth, God's universal truth is concretely present here and now — in historical time and space," Müller said. "Jesus Christ is not the representation of some supratemporal truth: He is 'the way, the truth and the life' in person."

Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers made a surprise visit, rousing the thousands of attendees to join him in repeating and inspiring others through his daily mantra, "nunc coepi," which translated from Latin means "Now I Begin." Pittsburgh Pirate pitcher Trevor Williams also attended and spoke at a Varsity Catholic session.

Entertainment at SLS20 included contemporary Christian music singer and songwriter Jeremy Camp and eight-time Grammy nominee Matt Maher. Livestreamed videos of SLS20 keynotes and daily Masses are posted along with event photos at <https://www.facebook.com/focuscatholic/>.

SLS20 included three tracks for attendees. Students on the Collegiate Track learned how to go deeper in their faith and form missionary disciples. For post-college attendees, the Making Missionary Disciples Track offered advice to help evangelize families, parishes, workplaces and communities. Campus ministry professionals on the Campus Ministry Track had the opportunity to be renewed for mission and to network with their peers. Attendees also had daily opportunities for Mass, adoration, confession, reflection, discernment and fellowship.

More than 4,500 college students from 311 campuses and several international locations attended the Collegiate Track, which discussed topics relevant to young adults. Benedictine Col-



Nearly 9,000 people registered for SLS20: You Were Made for Mission, presented by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), in Phoenix December 30, 2019 – January 3, 2020. *Photo Courtesy of FOCUS*

lege brought the largest campus group with 105 students. Texas A&M had the second-largest group with 98 students.

"SLS20 has made me realize how you have to give all of yourself to God," said Jaden Yaretz, a sophomore at the University of Washington, one of the 164 campuses on which FOCUS serves. "I want to share the good news with others and starting a Bible study would be a great way for me to do that. It would be helpful for other guys on campus to discuss what it means to be a man, especially when preparing to be a part of a family and having a duty to the Church."

Asked about his favorite part of the event, Yaretz reflected, "Right after we did the countdown for New Year's Eve, we started the year off with adoration. I was really feeling the presence of the Lord in that moment; it was really the pinnacle of my whole day. It's so important to put God first in our lives and that was a great way to do it. It makes me realize how I want to give myself fully to God."

"I want to implement incarnational evangelization, be friendlier and spend more time reaching out to people on campus," said Megan Ward, a sophomore at the University of North Alabama. "A transformative moment for me at SLS20 was hearing a speaker share a Pope Francis quote, 'It is not enough to simply open the door in welcome because they come, but we must go out through that door to seek and meet the people!' I've always had the door open, but I haven't always gone out and tried to evangelize and encounter people fully. I typically wait for outgoing people to find me, but now I feel empowered to go out and find people."

Nearly 300 chaplains and campus ministers registered for the Campus Ministry Track, sharing insights on creating vibrant campus ministries. More than 1,000 people joined the Making Missionary Disciples Track, which shared ideas, inspiration and resources on how to be missionary disciples in families, parishes and careers. That number included more than 700 FOCUS alumni and parishioners from more than

560 parishes.

In addition to Cardinal Müller and Archbishop Pierre, more than 300 priests concelebrated daily Mass, including Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila (Denver), Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M Cap. (Philadelphia), Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio (Archdiocese of the Military Services, USA), Bishop John O. Barres (Rockville Centre, N.Y.), Bishop Robert J. Brennan (Columbus, Ohio), Bishop Fernand J. Cheri, O.F.M Cap. (New Orleans), Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey (Archdiocese of the Military Services), Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens (St. Paul and Minneapolis), Bishop Robert J. Fisher (Detroit), Bishop John T. Fonda (Fargo, N.D.), Bishop Carl A. Kemme (Wichita, Kan.), Bishop Louis F. Kihnneman III (Biloxi, Miss.), Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg (Seattle), Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo A. Neavares (Phoenix), Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (Phoenix), Bishop John M. Quinn (Winona, Minn.), Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger (Albany, N.Y.), and Bishop Jerry L. Vincke (Salina, Kan.).

Priests heard around 4,000 confessions during the five-day event, with more than 1,800 of those heard in just two hours during Adoration and Confession Night on Wednesday evening.

Several speakers throughout the event discussed sharing the faith with all audiences, including Mari Pablo, Ana Glaze and Fr. Agustino Torres, C.F.R. Fr. Torres presented a bilingual session, "La misión comienza conmigo."

FOCUS Greek partnered with Catholic Charities Community

Services Arizona for the SLS20 Donation Drive. Attendees donated more than 1,500 hygiene and personal care items for metro and rural organizations that serve those in need, such as My Sister's Place, West Side Head Start - low income preschool program, MANA (Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force) House and Legacy Foundation Christine Stamper Center for Help & Hope.

FOCUS presented the 2020 St. Francis Xavier Award to Fr. Nick Blaha, given in recognition and appreciation of a FOCUS alumnus who has shown outstanding service to the New Evangelization. Fr. Blaha served as a FOCUS missionary from 2003 to 2006 and is one of 867 FOCUS alumni who have made decisions to pursue Catholic religious vocations. Fr. Blaha currently serves as pastor of three parishes in the urban core of Kansas City, Kansas: Blessed Sacrament, Christ the King, and Our Lady & St. Rose.

FOCUS benefactor Fred Clarke received the 2020 St. Joseph Award, which honors individuals who promote and reinvigorate the Church with their extraordinary generosity and focus on evangelization, and who have been heroically generous in their support of FOCUS by caring for the apostolate and mission.

Keynote speakers for SLS20 included Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, M.I.C., Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, Sr. Bethany Madonna, S.V., Fr. Michael Schmitz, Fr. Agustino Torres, C.F.R., Helen Alvaré, Curtis A. Martin, Damon Owens, Dr. Jonathan Reyes, Dr.

Edward Sri and Emily Wilson. The event also had a full lineup of speakers and teachers for all tracks, including Chika Anyanwu, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Jason Evert, Stephanie Gray, Dr. Scott Hahn, Dr. Mary Healy, Edward Herrera, Trent Horn, Fr. Joshua Johnson, Fr. Sean Kilcawley, Paul J. Kim, Mari Pablo, Dr. Scott Powell and Dr. Monique Ruberu.

"I am so excited for SEEK to come to St. Louis next year so others can experience the love of Jesus Christ through missionary discipleship, and then they can bring the tools they learn to their friends, family and members of their parishes in the area," said Nick Reinegal, who participated in the Making Missionary Disciples Track at SLS20. He is an active member of St. Louis Young Adults and attends the Incarnate Word Parish in Chesterfield, Mo. "I have met so many people who are on fire for their Catholic faith here at SLS and can't wait for others to experience this. God wants us to know how much He loves us, and I have received this love at SLS20. I hope to see thousands more at SEEK21!"

"FOCUS has been such a gift to the Church in raising up missionary disciples," said Brian Miller, senior director for Evangelization and Discipleship for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. "I cannot wait to see the impact SEEK21 has next year in St. Louis and all the graces it will bring to our archdiocese." Information on SEEK21, hosted Dec. 30, 2020 – Jan. 3, 2021, is available at seek.focus.org.

FOCUS events have welcomed more than 86,000 attendees since the inaugural National Conference held in 1999, where 25 students came together to pray, deepen their Catholic faith and learn how to share Christ with others.

Sponsors for SLS20 included Carmel Communications with the film "I Still Believe," The Guiding Star Project, Relevant Radio, Knights of Columbus, Divine Mercy University, Franciscan University, Catholic Worldview Fellowship, Diocesan Priest (NC-DVD), Catholic Medical Association, Camp Wojtyla, Catholic University of America, LiveAction, CMF CURO, Damascus Catholic Mission Campus, The Amazing Parish, Little Sisters of the Poor, COR Expeditions, Priests of the Sacred Heart, Sisters of the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Magnificat.

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What you need to know of the Census

In 2020, our nation will conduct the once-a-decade Census with the goal to count every person living in the United States once, only once and in the right place. Everyone matters and responding to the Census helps our city get a fair share of federal funding. Census data guides how more than \$675 billion in funding gets distributed to states and communities each year and helps communities create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals. The Census also helps determine how many seats a state receives in Congress and state and local governments use the data to redraw boundaries for congressional districts, state legislative districts and school districts, adapting to population shifts.

The 2020 Census is easy, safe and important. Responding is easier than ever since for the first time, people will be able to respond to the Census online. It asks just a few questions and takes a few minutes to respond. Your responses are safe, secure, confidential and protected by law. If you respond online, your answers are encrypted to protect your privacy and are safe from

hacking and other cyber threats. If you don't have Internet access, people can respond by phone or by mail. There are going to be 13 languages available over the phone and internet. Including: English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, French and Haitian Creole.

The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to keep your information confidential. Under Title 13, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. The law ensures that your private data is protected and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. Census Bureau employees are sworn for life to protect personal information and we have strong security measures in place to safeguard against cyberthreats. By law, your responses can only be used to produce statistics and the Census Bureau takes extraordinary steps to protect the confidentiality of your responses.

Conducting the Census is a massive undertaking and requires years of planning with the sup-



port of thousands of people. As the 2020 Census approaches, our success will rely on everyone's participation in every community. The opportunities will come through temporary jobs nationwide for multiple positions. We have jobs available in El Paso and you can apply on 2020census.gov/jobs or USAjobs.gov. For

more information or help applying, please call 1-855-JOB-2020.

Census outreach also consists of building relationships in the community where Area Census Offices are located. For the past several months, the Census has garnered support from local communities, governments and school districts throughout El

Paso community.

As the 2020 Census approaches, we will continue to share information about how you can make sure our community is fully represented. Visit 2020CENSUS.GOV anytime to get the latest news.

Lo que necesita saber del Censo

Nuestra nación llevará a cabo este 2020 el Censo de Estados Unidos que se realiza una vez por década con el objetivo de contar a todas las personas que viven en el país, una vez, solo una vez y en el lugar correcto.

Todas las personas en nuestra comunidad importan y responder al Censo ayuda a nuestra ciudad a obtener una parte justa de los fondos federales. Los datos del censo guían cómo más de \$675 mil millones de fondos se distribuyen a los estados y comunidades cada año y ayudan a las comunidades a crear empleos, proporcionar vivienda, prepararse para emergencias y construir escuelas, carreteras y hospitales. El Censo también ayuda a determinar

cuántos escaños recibe un estado en el Congreso y los gobiernos estatales y locales utilizan los datos para redibujar los límites de los distritos congresionales, los distritos legislativos estatales y los distritos escolares, adaptándose a los cambios de población.

El Censo del 2020 es fácil, seguro e importante. Responder es más fácil que nunca, por primera vez, las personas podrán responder al Censo en línea. Son nueve preguntas, el más corto de la historia. Sus respuestas son seguras, confidenciales y protegidas por ley. Si responde en línea, la información está encriptada para proteger su privacidad y están a salvo de otras amenazas ciberneticas. Si no tiene acceso a Inter-

net, las personas pueden responder por teléfono o por correo. Habrá 13 idiomas disponibles por teléfono e internet. Los cuales incluyen: inglés, español, chino, vietnamita, coreano, japonés, árabe, tagalo, polaco, portugués, ruso, francés y criollo haitiano.

Es importante recordar a la comunidad que la Oficina del Censo está obligada por el Título 13 del Código de los Estados Unidos a mantener su información confidencial. Bajo el Título 13, la Oficina del Censo no puede divulgar ninguna información identificable sobre usted, su casa o su negocio, incluso a las agencias policiales. La ley garantiza que sus datos privados estén protegidos y que sus re-

suestas no puedan ser utilizadas en su contra por ninguna agencia gubernamental o tribunal. Los empleados de la oficina del Censo hacen un juramento de por vida para proteger la información personal y tenemos fuertes medidas de seguridad para protegernos contra las ciberamenazas. Por ley, sus respuestas sólo se pueden utilizar para producir estadísticas y la Oficina del Censo toma medidas extraordinarias para proteger la confidencialidad de sus respuestas.

La realización del Censo 2020 es una tarea masiva y requiere años de planificación con el apoyo de miles de personas. Nuestro éxito dependerá de la participación de todos en cada

comunidad. Las oportunidades vendrán a través de empleos temporales en todo el país para múltiples puestos. Tenemos empleos disponibles en El Paso que puede solicitar en 2020census.gov/jobs o USAjobs.gov. La aplicación es fácil y en línea, si tienen alguna pregunta se pueden contactar a 1-855-JOB-2020.

A medida que se acerque el Censo 2020, continuaremos compartiendo información sobre cómo puede asegurarse de que nuestra comunidad esté plenamente representada. Visita 2020CENSUS.GOV en cualquier momento para recibir las últimas noticias.



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 Mt. 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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What I Learned Talking with Thousands of Sceptics on Reddit

By Bishop Robert Barron
Featured Columnist

I just finished my second dive into the Reddit AMA world. One of the most popular websites in the world, Reddit is a forum for all sorts of online conversations and presentations. The AMA (for Ask Me Anything) is a twenty-first century version of the medieval quodlibetal questions, during which a game theology professor would entertain any inquiry that came from the floor. Now, things are a bit cruder and more rough and ready on Reddit than they were in the universities of the Middle Ages, but you get the idea. When I engaged in the exercise last year, I received almost 12,000 questions and comments, making mine the third most commented-on AMA after those of Bill Gates and Jordan Peterson. This time, I've received over 15,000 comments and counting, making mine the second most commented-on AMA of the past year, just after Bill Gates and ahead of Bernie Sanders! I mention this not to show how popular I am with the Reddit crowd (I'm sure most of them have never heard of me), but rather to demonstrate just how massively interested young people are in the questions of religion.

If you can make it through the plethora of obnoxious, juvenile, and insulting comments, you will actually learn a great deal about what is on the minds of the Reddit audience—mostly young men between the ages of eighteen and thirty—when it comes to religion. I would identify four major themes: proving the existence of God, the problem of suffering, the determination of why one would choose one religion over another, and homosexuality. Each of these issues was addressed hundreds, perhaps thousands, of times. Permit me to speak, very briefly, of each in turn.

So first of all, the question of

proving God's existence came up again and again. Are there rational grounds for believing in God? How do I know that there is a God? Can God's reality be demonstrated to someone who does not believe in the Bible? What struck me very positively in this regard is that the young people on Reddit seemed to have a powerful interest in God—and that's no small thing. They weren't treating the proposal of God's existence as prescientific nonsense or self-serving fantasy. They were honestly wondering about God, restlessly searching for him. What struck me a bit more negatively is that there seemed to be little or no sense that Christian theologians and philosophers have been presenting and defending arguments for God's existence for centuries. That the Reddit audience hadn't an inkling of what these proofs and demonstrations might be is, at least in part, a failure of the Churches in their ministry of education.

The second major theme was the problem of evil. Now, it has been said that all of theology commences with and ultimately centers around the issue of justifying the ways of God in the presence of great suffering; so in a way, the intense interest of young people in this question is another encouraging sign that they are eager to think theologically. It would obviously require a lengthy book even to scratch the surface of this matter, but I would make just this one observation. I told a number of my conversation partners that there is only one mystery more puzzling than the problem of evil, and that is the mystery of goodness. Evil does not, strictly speaking, exist. It is the lack of a good that ought to be there, and as such, it is always parasitic upon the good. So as deeply frustrating and confounding the problem of evil is, it is always outpaced by the "problem" of goodness—namely,



Bishop Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of the Arhc Diocese of Los Angeles and Founder of Word on Fire Ministries. *Photo Courtesy of Word on Fire Ministries*

why goodness and beauty should exist at all. This, I suggested, might be at least a fresh way to address the issue.

The third principal motif was this: How could one possibly know that one's religion is better or truer than any other? To a large extent, this query is born from the relativism that holds sway everywhere in the culture of the West and, relatedly, from the conviction that toleration is the one indisputable value. Behind the question is the assumption that any attempt to claim truth in regard to a given religion is simply tantamount to arrogance and bigotry. Those who posed it seem to feel that religions are more or less like hobbies. You have yours and I have mine, but neither one of us would be justified in imposing them on each other or on anyone else. And what all of this reveals is the breakdown in anything like genuinely public religious argument. That a person can or should actually make a case

rationally for a religious perspective strikes the Reddit audience as absurd. In response to one of these questioners, I offered a brief demonstration of how one might argue, on Thomist grounds, for the legitimacy of a Trinitarian monotheism. I would be flabbergasted if that little exercise actually convinced my interlocutor, but my more modest hope is that it might show him/her that objective argument is possible in regard to religious matters.

Finally, my Reddit friends were massively concerned with the issue of homosexuality. Repeatedly, probably a thousand times, I heard that the Church hates gays and is hopelessly behind the times in regard to welcoming and affirming homosexuals. I won't even attempt in the context of this article to address the moral issues here, but permit me to say that the reaction of the Reddit audience is ample proof that the language the Church has used to articulate its teaching in

regard to this question has been ineffective to say the very least. Those well-versed in Aristotelian teleological ethics understand what is meant by the claim that homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered," but I'm afraid that the vast majority of people took that language to mean that homosexual persons are twisted and contemptible. Was this a deeply incorrect reading of the Church's teaching? Absolutely. But is it an indication that we can and must do a great deal better in getting that teaching across with greater compassion and clarity? I think the question answers itself.

I will confess that my two forays into the Reddit space have been more than a little discouraging. If you dare, look at the dismaying number of just plain aggressive and mean-spirited comments. But at the end of the day, I take those 15,000 comments as a deeply encouraging sign that the restless human heart is still searching for the only one who will satisfy it.

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Janet M. Crowe

February. A new month, a new beginning. A new month that begins on a weekend and celebrates the day of love, Valentine's Day, on Friday to make that a loveable weekend.

Okay, sometimes I get carried away, but the thought of new beginnings is still rocking around in my head, possibly from last month when our family gathered to celebrate the new year.

Moments after our son and daughter-in-law arrived, he disappeared into the bedroom and just as quickly reappeared and handed out gift bags – one each for his sister, his father and me. Ignoring our questioning looks, he told us to open them at the same time. So, acting in unison, we each reached into our bag and began pulling out a piece of clothing.

My husband asked, "Why are you giving us underwear?"

Chuckles swept the room and we continued pulling on the underwear-looking item until small outfits appeared, each with a personalized message. "My aunt loves me." "I have the best grandma ever." "When I grow up, I wanna be awesome like my grandpa."

Maybe it was past our bed-

time or something, but it took us a few seconds to recognize that the little onesies with cute messages were an announcement. They were pregnant! Then giggles really erupted with a bit of jumping up and down and lots of hugging.

At only a few weeks, their baby – our new grandchild – was still very tiny, about the size of a blueberry. Many mothers don't even realize they're pregnant at this stage, but our son and daughter-in-law were watching for the first signs that they would become new parents. Yet, before the mom has missed her second period, the baby's heart is already beating. Looking at prenatal photos of five-week-old developing babies, the heart seems large in comparison to the tiny baby, but, I can honestly tell you, the adult hearts of the baby's parents, aunt, and grandparents were also feeling pretty large and already beating with love for this child, a tiny precious treasure hidden within the womb of our daughter-in-law.

God's design is truly amazing in all things, especially in the growth and development of a human child. Only a few weeks ago, our tiny grandchild began life smaller than a grain of sugar but with all the genetic plans needed to form into not only an infant, but a toddler, a teenager, and even an old woman or man – all present at the very beginning of life within a mother's womb.

A week after we learned of the pregnancy, an ultrasound showed the baby had grown to be

the size of a raspberry or small gummy bear and already had little arm and leg buds. In the few weeks since conception to the doctor's appointment, at about six weeks, our wee baby's heart was beating, and eyes, ears and a tiny nose were beginning to show. The baby can respond to touch and, yes, is already able to feel pain or warmth or cold although things are nice and warm in the mother's womb if the baby remains safe and undisturbed. With today's medical advancements, doctors are even able to measure the baby's brain waves, but we still can't tell what he or she is thinking. However, that scientific fact also holds true for teenagers because parents often wonder what their teenagers are thinking.

Even before the teen years, parents marvel at the different stages in their children's lives, especially when their little ones go from crawling to walking and getting into everything. Remembering how quickly our two-year-old son got into trouble, I then considered our new grandchild, and every baby seven weeks after conception, whose nervous system is on overdrive building 100,000 new nerve cells every minute.

While my brain was still trying to imagine all those new nerve cells, our wee baby wasn't taking any time off. At eight weeks of life, all the baby's organs have been created but, of course, still need time to grow and get stronger in order to function well enough on their own, in the same way that, although

the baby's legs are able to wiggle and move at birth, it takes months before those little legs lead mom and dad on a chase as the toddler runs across the room. Even as adults, we are all still changing and developing, but the baby's rate of prenatal growth is incredibly fast.

Before the beginning of this month, our grandbaby's legs and arms were perfectly formed with feet and toes, hands and fingers. Those little fingers are able to grasp things which, since there aren't many toys inside mommy, I'm sure our daughter-in-law wonders if that's how the baby is squeezing her bladder. On those tiny fingers are unique and individual fingerprints that, no matter how many people are born, only this baby, this person, will have for the rest of his or her life.

Thinking of life in a medical sense, we think about a person's heart beating or flatlining upon death. As such, how can it be possible for anyone to deny that a preborn baby is alive when we can hear the baby's heartbeat often before the mother realizes she is pregnant. My son and daughter-in-law watched their baby's heart beating on the ultrasound at only six weeks after conception. By nine weeks, the baby's heart is beating at 150 times per minute, twice the rate of his or her mom's regular heartbeat – although a mom's heart probably beats faster than usual whenever she thinks of her child growing within her womb.

All this development – describing God's amazing creation

hidden from sight – has happened in just over two months. Most of what happens during the next seven months will simply be the baby growing bigger and stronger. This month, all the internal organ systems, which have already been created, will be working, including the liver and spleen which will be making red blood cells to circulate throughout the baby's body.

By the end of February, our grandbaby will be thirteen weeks old – one preborn teenager coming up. Our own precious treasure, but just one of God's children, our grandbaby will have grown from the size of a grain of sugar to about three inches in length. Such an amazing miracle of growth and development already, but we still have a few months to wait, to allow this child to grow bigger and stronger before we hold him or her in our arms. Yet we already hold this tiny baby in our hearts.

We are told that "Mary kept all these things and reflected on them in her heart." Without today's modern scientific advances, Mary was unable to see the changes and growth in her son's life before birth, yet from His conception, she knew He was present, He was alive within her. Today, how can we deny the miracle of human life living within the womb when we can actually witness scientific proof of its reality? Let us treasure every precious life blessed by God the Creator of life and hidden within a mother's womb.

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

The Foxes and the Henhouse



Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

Probably the biggest bioethics story of 2019 involved Dr. Jinkui He (known to his associates as "JK"), a Chinese scientist who employed a new technology called CRISPR/Cas9 to produce the world's first gene-edited babies. JK made genetic changes to two little girls, Lulu and Nana, when they were early-stage embryos, attempting to modify a receptor for HIV to confer resistance to a possible future infection from the virus. He publicly announced the birth of the girls at an international scientific conference near the end of 2018, and as the news rapidly spread, many scientists and commentators expressed shock and dismay over his "designer baby" experiments.

Chinese provincial authorities quickly became aware of his activities as well, and he was placed under house arrest upon his return from the conference. In the closing days of 2019, a secret

trial was held, and he was sentenced to three years in prison for producing the CRISPR babies. The trial proceedings concluded that JK had "rashly applied gene editing technology to human assisted reproductive medicine."

The verdict reached by the Chinese court raises complex questions that must be confronted: What does it mean to "rashly apply" a new technology like human gene editing? Who should determine if a particular use is "rash" or "reasonable"?

Dr. Rita Vassena, a member of the Executive Committee of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, framed the ethical concerns around JK's case this way: "As the current scientific consensus indicates, the use of CRISPR/Cas9 in human embryos destined to give rise to a pregnancy is, at this stage, unjustified."

She couches her ethical analysis, as many scientists do, in terms of the "current scientific consensus." But such "consensus" is an extremely malleable concept. It also conveniently implies that scientists themselves can set up their own ethical rules and provide regulatory oversight for scientific research, so that they, in effect, become the foxes

guarding the henhouse. The saga that has unfolded during the last year surrounding the gene-editing experiments of JK has demonstrated, if nothing else, how self-serving and ineffective a community of scientists can be as they try to exercise the role of lawyer, judge and jury of their own ethical standards.

Even though we should be justifiably alarmed at Chinese courts meting out jail time in secret to scientific researchers, the fact remains that it was a government-controlled court that finally put some teeth into ethical regulations. In the West, to have governments, courts or major institutions take any action whatsoever in a case like JK's seems at present inconceivable. Instead, in American and European universities and industrial settings, we often encounter feeble, meandering discussions about research ethics, along with a proliferation of rubber-stamping "ethics review panels." These often consist of hand-picked members devoid of strong ethical or religious training and viewpoints. Such panels give increasingly systematic cover for an ever-expanding range of unethical research practices.

Whether it's giving a green light to use stem cells derived

from human embryos or tissues from intentionally aborted fetuses for research, or to employ cloning technology to produce new human life, or to manufacture three parent embryos, many biomedical researchers have come to rely so much on ethical rubber stamps that they just venture ahead, confident that they won't be "fenced in" by ethical considerations.

JK's gene-editing experiments and China's strong reaction have at least managed to bring the ethical concerns momentarily back into the spotlight. "I think a jail sentence is the proper punishment for him," said Wang Yuedan, a professor of immunology at Peking University in comments he shared with the New York Times. "It makes clear our stance on the gene editing of humans — that we are opposed to it... signaling that there is a bottom line that cannot be broken."

Yet this is precisely the difficulty in biomedicine today: namely, that there are few, if any, "bottom lines" when it comes to research ethics. The lines have become exceedingly flexible, if the price is right or if a particular political administration is amenable to re-drawing them.

While there isn't any perfect solution to ensure scientists never

engage in unethical research — and the involvement of communist secret courts is certainly far from ideal — we clearly need to promote, fund and regulate modern biomedical research in a way that prioritizes ethics over expediency.

This means establishing significant sanctions and funding restrictions when ethical violations by researchers occur. It also means including alternative viewpoints on ethics review panels, especially those informed by longstanding religious and philosophical traditions, like that of the Catholic Church, which offer the important perspective that certain ethical lines are not able to be moved or redrawn. This kind of input can contribute much to the kinds of discussions that need to occur, and can afford an important counterbalance to any foxes who desire to keep guard over the ethical henhouse.

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

Cosas Curiosas De Nuestro Tiempo



Padre Wilson Cuevas

Vivimos en un tiempo curioso y quizás por eso apasionante, aunque no lo suficientemente original porque mucho de lo que hoy nos parece nuevo es tan viejo como lo son el egoísmo y el pecado. Una característica actual es la defensa de los “derechos” de la vida, del cosmos, de las culturas; Para evitar que el hombre lo degrade aún más. Pero lo que hace curioso nuestro tiempo no es el despertar ecológico o protecciónista, sino el hecho que junto a ello se difunda y promueva un estilo de vida considerado “natural” y se presenta como carente de represiones, de límites, de conceptos objetivos de pecado. Como se piensa que ese estilo de vida natural es más humano, que el que ha promovido el cristianismo, muchos añoran un regreso al paganismo, a tiempos que consideraban felices, porque allí cada uno era dueño de su conciencia y establecía por sí mismo lo que era bueno y lo que era malo sin que nadie lo molestara ni pretendiera darle lecciones desde fuera. Lo llamativo es que se admira ese pasado pagano y se desea volver a Él, a la vez que se olvida como

acabo ese pasado. No se tiene en cuenta que esa sociedad avanza hacia la destrucción, tanto económica, política, social y religiosa, precisamente porque esa libertad, dígase propiamente libertinaje para no offendr el concepto de libertad, fue la causa interna del caos, la carcinoma que corroía el sistema por dentro, debido a que minaba y destruía El espíritu del cuero social: los valores éticos, el más semental sentido común ligados a la vida.

Así, que convendría que quienes propongan la vuelta a esos tiempos “naturales” en la que todo el mundo daba gusto a su cuerpo sin tener que “avergonzarse” de nada y en la que lo bueno era lo que iba unido al placer, estudiarán detenidamente la historia y se dieran cuenta que ese tipo de sociedad es inviable. Precisamente porque no es natural. Lo natural no es cambiar de pareja cuando a uno le apetece, o engañar, u olvidar los compromisos que van ligados a la palabra dada. Lo natural no es dejarse llevar por los instintos. Eso será natural para un perro, un camello o un cocodrilo... pero el hombre es más que un animal, aunque a veces se empeñe en ser menos que eso; el hombre aunque le pese, es diferente y tiene elementos esenciales, constitutivos, naturales, distintos; por eso lo natural en el hombre es ser racional, es tener ética, es tener conciencia. Eso es lo natural y por eso triunfo el cristianismo frente al permisivo paganismo.

Porque las consecuencias de las malas acciones no son culpa del que dice que eso está mal, sino que se deben al hecho Ineludible de que lo malo hace daño aunque te guste y que lo bueno es lo mejor para ti, aunque te cueste reconocerlo y practicarlo. Así, si te gusta lo natural, se natural, pero piensa en las consecuencias y no te quejes ni lamentes de la vida...

Hay enseñanzas cristianas que son incompatibles con las aspiraciones normales de la gente normal. Para algunos el cristiano es un ser que solo puede vivir debajo de los puentes, que es una persona sumisa y que fracasa en todas las empresas que emprenda en la vida. Es una visión terriblemente alejada de lo que Cristo ofreció a los suyos. El Señor vino para hacer feliz a la gente, a ayudar a cada persona a llevar con más humanidad las miserias de la vida y a gozar más de las muchas alegrías que también la vida da. Hay que rechazar esa imagen falsa del cristianismo que lo liga a lo triste, a lo antipático y que hace del Evangelio algo solo practicable por super gigantes, por titanes de la fe o personas extraordinarias. Pero no debemos olvidar ni ocultar una verdad que no se puede pasar por alto. Me refiero a la CRUZ. Que significa para los hombres de hoy ser vencedor? Probablemente este concepto esté ligado en muchos casos no al éxito que se logra con el esfuerzo o con la inteligencia, sino más bien al que se consigue

mediante la trampa, las faltas de escrupulos o las mentiras y el engaño. Y ahí si que hay que ser valientes y no dudar en afirmar que la doctrina de Jesucristo ha desaparecido de la vida de esos vencedores. Ellos la han hecho desaparecer, la han arrojado lejos de si porque era molesta para su conciencia e incomoda para sus negocios e intereses. No se puede vivir el cristianismo sin abrazar la cruz. No me refiero a una cruz especial, de esas que nos asustan cuando sabemos que la está llevando un amigo. Me refiero a la cruz de cada día y especialmente la que va ligada a la honradez, a la honestidad, a la sinceridad, a esas virtudes humanas que hace de una persona un buen amigo, un buen esposo, un buen profesional y en general, alguien de palabra en el que puedes confiar plenamente. Ser así, incluso para los que llevan mucho ganado gracias a sus dones naturales, no es sencillo. No lo ha sido nunca, pero quizás menos en estos tiempos en que las presiones sociales a favor el bien se ha visto sustituidas por otras en sentido contrario.

El cristiano de hoy sabe que solo podrá vencer si pone todas sus cualidades y esfuerzos al alcance de la acción fertilizadora de la gracia de Dios: sabe que para alcanzar el éxito no podrá utilizar las trampas que permiten avanzar a otros, que habrá de ser fiel a su conciencia aunque eso le haga perder algún negocio: Pero ese cristiano, como ha pasado

siempre, triunfara. Y lo hará precisamente porque ha creado a su alrededor un ambiente de confianza. Probablemente sus hijos serán, como él, gente de bien; su familia no tendrá tanto, pero tampoco necesitará tanto; descubrir el valor de las cosas sencillas le sacará a la vida un provecho, que ignora el que solo vive para tener, para conseguir llegar arriba sin importar los medios. Me dan pena los “vencedores”, los triunfadores sin escrupulos. Y que causan, sobre todo, pena a sus familias. No saben lo que se pierden y como privan a los suyos de descubrir las verdaderas y perdurables alegrías de la vida. No podemos ni debemos hacer de ideologías o de “personajes” señores a los que adorar porque solo al Dios de Jesucristo debemos adorar y cuando así lo hacemos nos sentimos afortunados; porque lo que Él nos pide lo distribuye rápidamente, a manos llenas, entre los hombres, entre los hermanos, entre los que se tienen tragar en silencio sus lagrimas porque hasta su voz alzada seria excusa para nuevas represiones. Si crees en Dios, en el Dios crucificado, evita el engaño y el autoengaño y puedes poner tus esperanzas y las luchas de cada día en un deposito que no se quiebra, en un negocio que no fracasa, en manos de un amigo que no engaña, que siempre es fiel y te ama con Amor eterno. Que dicha poder vivir así!

Curious Things Of Our Times

We live in a curious time and perhaps because of that excitement, although not original enough because much of what we think is new today is as old as selfishness and sin. A current feature is the defense of the “rights” of life, the cosmos, of cultures; to keep the man from degrading it even more. But what makes our time curious is not the Ecological or Protectionist Awakening, but the fact that together it spreads and promotes a lifestyle considered “natural” and presents itself as devoid of repressions, limits, objective concepts of sin. And it is thought that this natural lifestyle is more humane, than that which has promoted Christianity, many years for a return to paganism, to times they considered happy, because there each owned his conscience and established for himself what was good and what was bad without anyone bothering him or pretending to lecture him from the outside. The striking thing is that you admire that pagan past and want to return to it, while forgetting how it ended. It is not taken into account that this society advanced towards destruction, both economic, political, social and religious, precisely because that freedom, more properly called debauchery, so as not to offend the concept of freedom, was the internal cause of chaos, the carcinoma that corroded the system

inside, because it undermined and destroyed the spirit of our social fabric: ethical values, and the common sense that is linked to life.

So, it would be appropriate that those who advocate the return of those “natural” times when everyone liked their body without having to feel “embarrassed” by anything, and where good was whatever was linked to pleasure, that they would carefully study the history and realize that this type of society is unworkable. Precisely because it's not natural. The natural thing is not to change partners when one wants to, or deceive, or forget the commitments that are linked to the given word. The natural thing is not to get carried away by instincts. That would be natural for a dog, a camel or a crocodile... but man is more than an animal, though he sometimes insists on being less than that; man, even though at times it weighs on him, is different and has essential, constitutive, natural, distinct elements; that's why the natural thing in man is to be rational, it's to have ethics, it's to have a conscience. That is the natural thing and that is why Christianity triumphs over permissive paganism. Because the consequences of wrongdoing are not the fault of the one who says that this is wrong, but are due to the inescapable fact that evil hurts even if you like it,

and that good is what is best for you, even if you find it hard to recognize and practice it. So, if you like the natural, be natural, but think about the consequences and don't complain or be sorry about life...

There are Christian teachings that are incompatible with the normal aspirations of normal people. For some, the Christian is a being who can live under bridges, who is submissive and who fails in all his business undertakings in life. It is a terribly distant vision of what Christ offered to His people. The Lord came to make people happy, to help each person to carry the miseries of life more humanely, and to enjoy more of the many joys that life also gives. We must reject this false image of Christianity that links it to the sad, to the unfriendly and that makes the Gospel only practicable by super giants, by titans of faith or extraordinary people. But we must not forget or hide a truth that cannot be overlooked. I'm referring to the CROSS. What does it mean for today's men to be victorious? This concept is probably in many cases linked not to success achieved with effort or intelligence, but rather to that one achieved through cheating, lack of scruples, or lies and deception. And there we must be courageous and not hesitate to affirm that the doctrine of Jesus

Christ has disappeared from the lives of those victors. They have made it disappear, thrown it away because it was annoying to their conscience and uncomfortable for their business and interests. You can't live Christianity without embracing the cross. I don't mean a special cross, the ones that scare us when we know it's being carried by a friend. I refer to the cross of every day and especially that which is linked to honor, honesty, sincerity, to those human virtues that make a person a good friend, a good husband, a good professional and in general someone who offers a word that you can fully trust. To be so, even for those who have earned much, thanks to their natural gifts, is not easy. It has never been, but perhaps less so in these times when social pressures for good have been replaced by others to the contrary.

Today's Christian knows that he can only overcome if he makes all his qualities and efforts within the reach of the fertilizing action of God's grace: he knows that in order to achieve success he will not be able to use the traps that allow others to advance, that he will be faithful to his own conscience even if it means losing a business opportunity. But that Christian, as has always happened, will triumph. And he will do so precisely because he has created around

himself an atmosphere of trust. His children will probably be, like him, good people; his family won't have that much, but they won't need that much either; Discovering the value of simple things will bring to life a profit, which evades the one who only lives to have, to get to the top no matter the means. I feel sorry for the “winners”, the unscrupulous winners. And they give, above all, grief to their families. They don't know what they're missing and how they deprive their families to discover the true and enduring joys of life. We cannot and should not make ideologies or “characters” lords for us to worship because we should only worship our Lord Jesus Christ, and when we do, we feel fortunate; because what He asks of us He distributes quickly, with plentiful hands, among men, among the brethren, among those who have to silently swallow their tears because even their raised voice would be an excuse for further repression. If you believe in God, in the crucified God, avoid deception and self-deception and you can put your hopes and daily struggles in a safe warehouse, in a business that does not fail, in the hands of a friend who does not deceive, who is always faithful and loves you with eternal Love. What a great way it is to live like this!

By Tony Maglano
Featured Columnist

Among the countless vulnerable human beings in our world, none are more vulnerable than millions of unborn babies threatened by abortion.

Even a new-born baby is less vulnerable.

Hardly anyone could kill a new-born infant. Just the mere sight of a precious new-born baby brings a smile to one's face and warmth to one's heart. And that is a vulnerable baby's best natural defense.

However, an unborn baby does not have the protection of being seen for what he or she is – a miraculous new human life (see: "From Conception to Birth" <http://bit.ly/1XezTp2>).

But a wonderful international effort by the Knights of Columbus has provided over 1,000 ultrasound machines to pregnancy centers and pro-life health clinics throughout the U.S. and in several countries, thus allowing mothers and fathers to see their miraculous unborn babies (see: <https://bit.ly/2QIVtjX>).

While many born babies tragically and unnecessarily die every year from poverty, treatable

Defending the most defenseless

diseases and the scourge of war, the number of unborn babies brutally dismembered and murdered by abortion is far greater.

Each year, approximately 900,000 abortions are performed in the U.S. (see: <https://bit.ly/2snR4vE>). And it is estimated that annually 56 million unborn babies are aborted worldwide (see: <https://bit.ly/2R6xsDr>).

As I write, I am planning to participate in the "March for Life" tomorrow (Jan. 24) in Washington, D.C. I have marched in this annual event over 30 times because of its educational, political and spiritual importance. But the "March for Life" and other such events around the U.S. and world – important as they are – are simply not enough.

While it's true that many of the marchers will go home and continue marching in one way or another for the unborn, I suspect many will not – including the millions who could not attend. I say this because as I keep my ear to the ground, and speak at parishes around the U.S., I don't usually get a strong sense that most Catholics are actively working throughout the year to end abortion – or for that matter regularly working to end any other human injustice.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities is asking us to



Additionally, there are many good websites offering numerous suggestions on how to stay actively pro-life all year.

It would do us well to rearrange some of our priorities, so as to make room throughout the year for the unborn and other hurting people. For those of you who are already doing your best here – Thanks! And keep up the good work! And to the rest of us who can certainly do better – let's go for it!

Tony Maglano is an internationally syndicated social justice and peace columnist. He is available to speak at diocesan or parish gatherings. Tony can be reached at tmag6@comcast.net.

email and call (Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121) our two U.S. senators and representative urging them to co-sponsor and vote for the following bills:

- "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" (S.311/S.130/H.R.962)
- "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act" (S.160/H.R.784)
- "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2019" (S.109/H.R.200)
- "Conscience Protection Act" (S.183/H.R.2014).

Also, please sign-up to receive legislative alerts from your state Catholic conference.

*For I know the plans I have for you,
Plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."*

Jeremiah 29:11



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Defendiendo a los más indefensos

By Tony Maglano
Featured Columnist

Entre los innumerables seres humanos vulnerables en nuestro mundo, ninguno es más vulnerable que millones de bebés no nacidos amenazados por el aborto.

Incluso un bebé recién nacido es menos vulnerable.

Casi nadie podría matar a un bebé recién nacido. Solo la simple vista de un precioso bebé recién nacido trae una sonrisa a la cara y calidez al corazón. Y esa es la mejor defensa natural de un bebé vulnerable.

Si embargo, un bebé no nacido no tiene la protección de ser visto por lo que es: una vida humana nueva y milagrosa (ver: "Desde la concepción hasta el nacimiento" <http://bit.ly/1XezTp2>).

Pero un maravilloso esfuerzo internacional de los Caballeros de Colón ha proporcionado más de 1,000 máquinas de ultrasonido a centros de embarazo y clínicas de salud pro-vida en los EE. UU. Y en varios países, permitiendo así que las madres y los padres vean a sus milagrosos bebés no nacidos (ver: <https://bit.ly/2QIVtjX>).

Mientras que muchos bebés nacidos trágicamente e innecesariamente mueren cada año a causa de la pobreza, enfermedades tratables y el flagelo de la guerra, el número de bebés no nacidos brutalmente desmembrados y asesinados por el aborto es mucho mayor.

Cada año, se realizan aproximadamente 900,000 abortos en los EE. UU. (Ver: <https://bit.ly/2snR4vE>). Y se estima que anualmente 56 millones de bebés no nacidos son abortados en todo el mundo (ver: <https://bit.ly/2R6xsDr>).

<https://bit.ly/2R6xsDr>.

Mientras escribo, planeo participar en la "Marcha por la vida" mañana (24 de enero) en Washington, D.C. He marchado en este evento anual más de 30 veces debido a su importancia educativa, política y espiritual. Pero la "Marcha por la vida" y otros eventos similares en todo Estados Unidos y el mundo, por importantes que sean, simplemente no son suficientes.

Si bien es cierto que muchos de los manifestantes irán a casa y continuarán marchando de una forma u otra por los no nacidos, sospecho que muchos no lo harán, incluidos los millones que no pudieron asistir. Digo esto porque mientras mantengo mi oído en el suelo y hablo en las parroquias de los Estados Unidos, generalmente no tengo la sensación de que la mayoría de los católicos están trabajando activamente durante todo el año para poner fin al aborto, o para el caso, trabajan regularmente para poner fin a cualquier otra injusticia humana.

Ahora, eso no quiere decir que la mayoría de los católicos no sean buenas personas afectuosas, ¡lo son! Más bien, creo que muchos católicos están muy ocupados con otros elementos esenciales, y no esenciales, y que el fenómeno de "fuera de la vista, fuera de la mente" hace que muchas personas se olviden de todo el sufrimiento. Además, el hecho de que muchos clérigos duden en predicar regularmente sobre el aborto y otros temas candentes de justicia social y paz, a pesar de que las lecturas de las Escrituras a menudo se prestan a tal predicción, no ayuda.

La Secretaría de Actividades

Pro-Vida de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE. UU. Nos pide que envíemos un correo electrónico y llamemos (centralita del Capitolio: 202-224-3121) a nuestros dos senadores y representantes de EE. UU. Instándolos a copatrocinar y votar los siguientes proyectos de ley:

- "Ley de protección de sobrevivientes de aborto nacidos vivos" (S.311 / S.130 / H.R.962)
- "Ley de protección del niño por nacer compatible con el dolor" (S.160 / H.R.784)
- "Ley de no divulgación de fondos para contribuyentes para el aborto y el seguro de aborto de 2019" (S.109 / H.R.200)
- "Ley de protección de la conciencia" (S.183 / H.R.2014).

Además, regístrese para recibir

alertas legislativas de su conferencia católica estatal.

Además, hay muchos sitios web buenos que ofrecen numerosas sugerencias sobre cómo mantenerse activamente pro-vida durante todo el año.

Nos haría bien reorganizar algunas de nuestras prioridades, a fin de dejar espacio durante todo el año para las personas no nacidas y otras personas que sufren. Para aquellos de ustedes que ya están haciendo lo mejor aquí, ¡Gracias! ¡Y sigan con el buen trabajo! Y para el resto de nosotros que ciertamente podemos hacerlo mejor, ¡vamos a por ello!

Tony Maglano es un columnista internacionalmente sindicado de justicia social y paz. Está disponible para hablar en reuniones diocesanas o parroquiales. Tony puede ser contactado en tmag6@comcast.net.

The Catholic Foundation Welcomes the Angela Ladogana Fund for St. Raphael

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

Angela Ladogana, affectionately known as Angie, was as generous after her passing as she was in life. A St. Raphael parishioner, Angie left an estate gift for her beloved parish; Fr. Tony Celino, JCL, Pastor of St. Raphael, used the thoughtful donation to establish a Named Fund for the church in her memory. She lost her valiant battle with cancer on January 26, 2019 at the age of 68. A Mass to celebrate the life and memory of Angie Ladogana will be held at St. Raphael Parish on Saturday, February 15 at the 4pm anticipated Mass. All are welcome to honor her legacy and contribute to her fund.

Angela Elizabeth Ladogana was born in Barletta, Italy to Francesco and Vincenza Ladogana. As a child, she attended Mass celebrated by Saint Padre Pio. It made an impact on the young girl and gave her a foundation for a lifelong devotion to her Catholic

faith. At the age of seven, Angela and her family emigrated to New York. She would go on to receive degrees from Hunter College and Yeshiva University, a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, and a postdoctoral degree from Aliant University. Dr. Ladogana was a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas and prior to establishing her private practice in El Paso, she was a YISD school psychologist.

Angie worked tirelessly as a volunteer for numerous organizations, including St. Raphael Parish ministries—Catholic Daughters, ACTS, Eucharistic Minister—loved to decorate the church for Easter and Christmas, supported Jennifer Ann's Group, and had a passion for the Sisters of Franciscan Missionaries of Mary and the Sisters of Charity. She was known as someone who loved easily, was a loyal friend, and loved to dance and garden.

Join the St. Raphael community for a special Mass in memory of Angie Ladogana on Saturday, February 15 at 4pm. St. Raphael

Parish is located at 2301 Zanzibar Road. To contribute to the fund, please contact the Foundation's Major Gifts Officer at 915-872-8412 or slarkin@elpasodiocese.org.

St. Raphael Parish was established as a mission of St. Pius X Parish in 1966 after a census revealed 800 Catholic families living in east El Paso and the first church, now the parish hall, was constructed that year. It was decreed a parish on August 15, 1967 by Bishop Metzger. Rev. Richard J. Arlt was appointed the first resident priest beginning on December 1, 1967. St. Raphael is home to thousands of families from surrounding neighborhoods, including Album Park, Cielo Vista and Eastridge.

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



A St. Raphael parishioner, Angie left an estate gift for her beloved parish; Fr. Tony Celino, JCL, Pastor of St. Raphael, used the thoughtful donation to establish a Named Fund for the church in her memory.

Photo Courtesy The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso

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How Can I Help My Parish

By Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator for the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso offers one-on-one assistance to parishes to improve Mass attendance, ministry participation and Sunday collection. Sandoval, will offer a weekend course in English and Spanish under the Tepeyac Institute for parishioners interested to learn how to help their pastors increase parish Mass attendance, ministry

engagement and Sunday collection. The course will provide the theology and spirituality of Stewardship and will provide resources to promote a Stewardship way of life: Pray, Serve and Give in the parish. Please note: Anyone interested to take the Stewardship course must have completed the Christian Formation Program under the Tepeyac Institute

For more information please contact Tepeyac Institute at 915-872-8420 or to contact Karina Sandoval directly please send her an e-mail to ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org

One on One Assistance to Parishes to improve Mass Attendance

What: Stewardship Ministry Certificate

Where: Tepeyac Institute:
499 St. Matthews St. El Paso, TX 79907

When: Saturday, March 7 & 14 – English

Time: 8:00 am – 12 pm

Presenter: Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator

Como Puedo Ayudar a mi Parroquia

Por Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

La Coordinadora en Corresponsabilidad para la Fundación para la Diócesis de El Paso, Karina Sandoval ofrece entrenamiento a las parroquias para ayudarles a incrementar su asistencia en Misa, participación en los ministerios y la colecta dominical. Sandoval, ofrecerá un curso de fin de semana en inglés y en español bajo el Instituto Tepeyac para aquellos feligreses que estén interesados en ayudar a sus pastores a que se incremente la asistencia

en Misa, participación en los ministerios y un incremento en la ofrenda dominical. El curso proveerá la teología y la espiritualidad sobre la Corresponsabilidad y recursos que ayudan a promover el estilo de vida Corresponsable: Orar, Servir y Dar en la parroquia. Nota: Aquellos interesados en tomar el curso deberán de haber completado el programa de la Formación Cristiana bajo el Instituto Tepeyac. Para más información favor de contactar al Instituto Tepeyac al 915-872-8420 o contactar a Karina Sandoval a su correo electrónico al ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org

Entrenamiento a las parroquias para ayudarles a incrementar su asistencia en Misa

Qué: Certificado en el Ministerio de Corresponsabilidad

Dónde: Instituto Tepeyac:
499 St. Matthew St. El Paso, TX 79907

Cuando: sábado, 7 y 14 de marzo – español

Tiempo: 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Presentador: Karina Sandoval, Coordinadora en Corresponsabilidad

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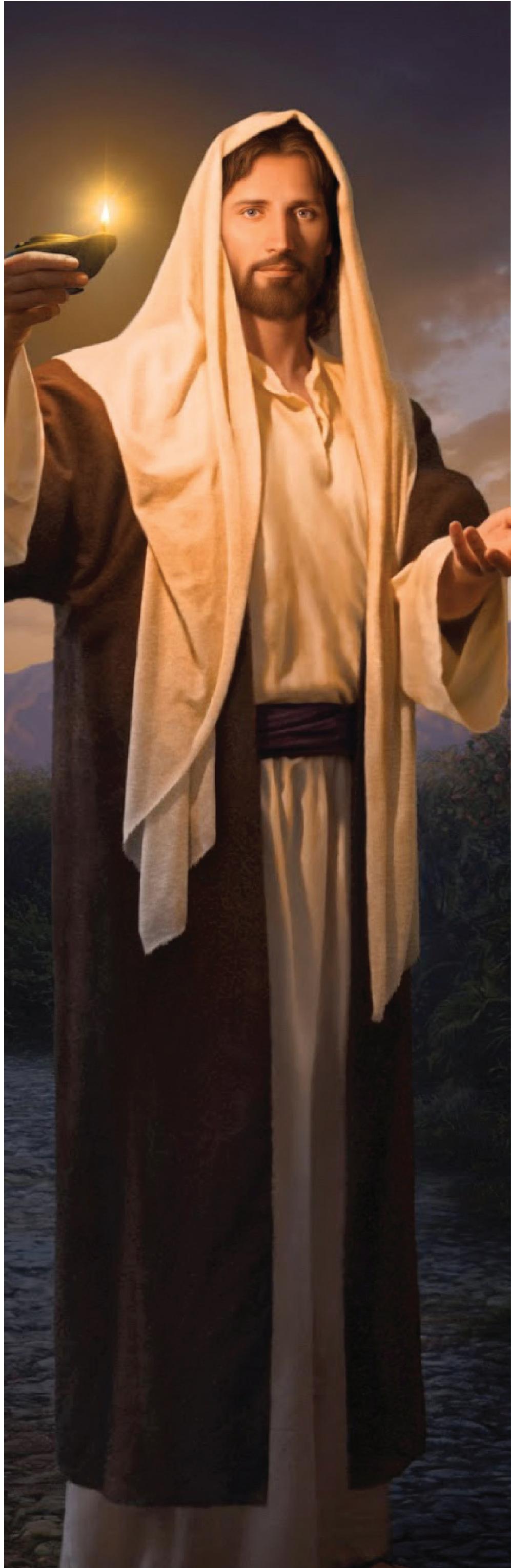
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Progress is our annual invitation to the people of the Diocese of El Paso to participate in and support the ministries and programs of your local Church.

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Parishes receive training, consultation, and direct support from the programs and ministries funded by the Catholic Ministry Appeal and individuals receive educational, spiritual, and social services. Your gift to the 2020 Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal will help fund areas of your choice.

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We ask parishioners throughout the Diocese to participate in the Catholic Ministry Appeal both through prayer for its success and a pledge of support. With everyone's help, your ministries can carry on the work that Christ entrusted to His Church.

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- At your church during one of the Commitment Weekends in February
- Online at www.2020progress.org
- Through the QR code →
- By phone at **(915) 872-8412**
- By mail to Progress 2020 Appeal
P.O. Box 17993
El Paso, Texas 79917

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The Foundation can maximize your gift and use it to make the greatest possible impact if you choose this designation. That's because we are always assessing the areas of greatest need in our Catholic community and working to find the best possible solutions.

Your Gift Helps To Serve Tens of Thousands of People in Our Diocese.

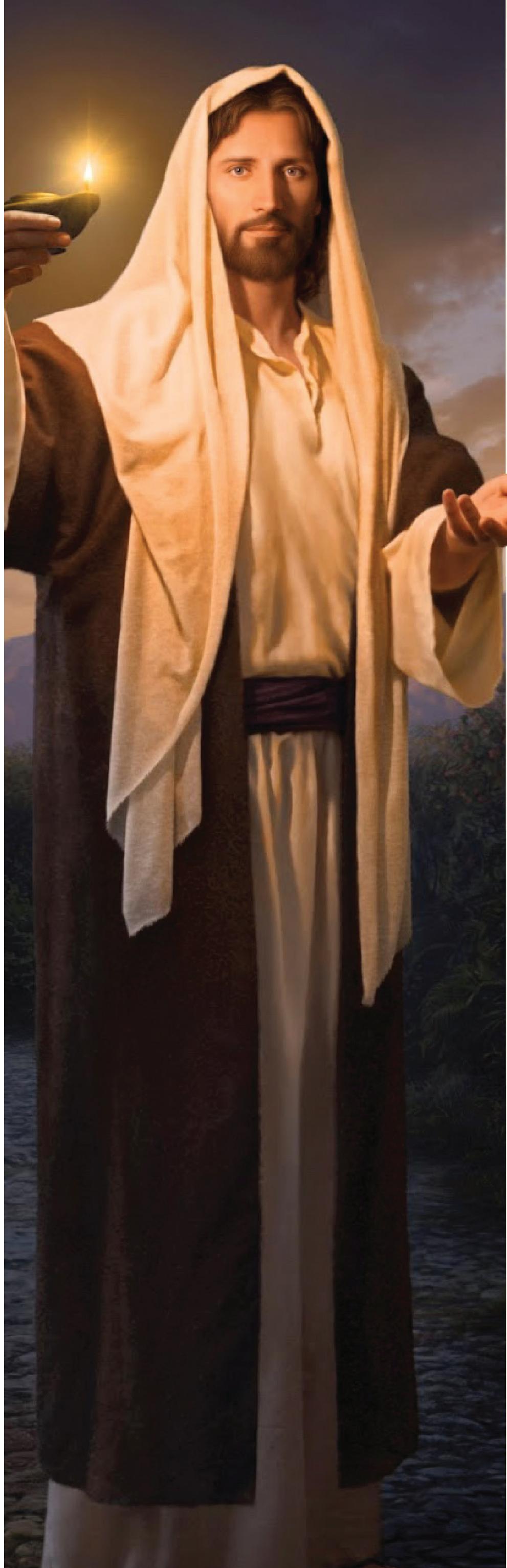
Please Make Your Donation Today!

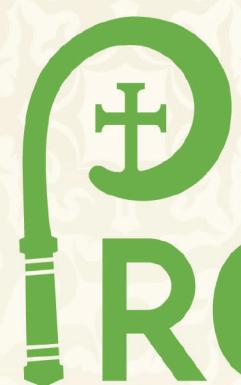
FOUNDATION
FOR THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO



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**PROGRESO**
CAMPÀÑA MINISTERIOS CATÓLICOS 2020

**VEN Y
SÍGUEME**

Dios amó tanto al mundo, que entregó a su Hijo único para que todo el que crea en él no muera, sino que tenga Vida eterna.

JUAN 3,16

**2020PROGRESS.ORG**



**!Haga su
Donativo Hoy!**

(915) 872-8412

499 St. Matthews Street El Paso, Texas 79907

 **FOUNDATION**
FOR THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO



VEN Y SÍGUEME



Progreso es la invitación anual para que la gente de la Diócesis de El Paso participe y apoye a los ministerios y programas de nuestra Iglesia local.

Estos ministerios y programas apoyan a las parroquias, individuos y familias y a toda la comunidad en general, en los 10 condados de la Diócesis, e involucran actividades que las parroquias individuales no pueden realizar por sí mismas. Jesús nos invita a seguirlo para construir una comunidad católica fuerte.

Parroquias, Escuelas, Familias e Individuos se Benefician

Las parroquias reciben capacitación, consultas y apoyo directo de los programas y ministerios financiados por la Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos y las personas reciben servicios educativos, espirituales y sociales. Su donación a Progreso 2020: la Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos ayudará a financiar áreas de su elección:

Haga su Promesa de Donativo Hoy

Pedimos a los feligreses de toda la diócesis que participe en la Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos, tanto a través de una oración para su éxito, como con una promesa de apoyo monetario. Con su ayuda, nuestros ministerios pueden continuar con la obra que Cristo confió a su Iglesia.

¿Cómo puedo yo apoyar a Progreso – Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos?

- En su iglesia, durante uno de los fines de semana de compromiso en febrero
- En línea en www.2020progress.org
- Por QR code →
- Por teléfono al (915) 872-8412
- Por correo a Campaña de Progreso 2020
P. O. Box 17993
El Paso, Texas 79917

\$1,900,000 META

12,000 DONANTES

Con el fin de alcanzar nuestra meta de \$1.9 millones en el 2020, pedimos en oración que todos los donantes vuelvan a considerar aumentar la cantidad de su compromiso a un nivel más alto.

Asigne Su Donativo al Área de su elección

Educación y Formación

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

Oficina de Educación | Ministerio de Formación Religiosa y Oeste de Texas | Instituto Tepeyac

Evangelización

Programas que brindan evangelización y defensa en nombre de los necesitados.

Oficina de Comunicaciones | Ministerio de Paz y Justicia | Tigua - Ministerio para Nativos Americanos | Oficina de Culto

Alcance Pastoral

Ministerios que ofrecen servicios humanos y divulgación a la comunidad católica.

Ministerio Católico en el Campus | Servicios de Consejería Católica | Servicios Diocesanos para Migrantes y Refugiados | Ministerio de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar | Ministerio de Jóvenes y Adultos Jóvenes

Seminarista y Formación de Diaconado

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

Programa de Seminaristas Mayores y Seminario San Carlos | Programa Diaconado Permanente | Ministerio de Vocaciones

Área de Mayor Necesidad

La Fundación puede maximizar su donativo y utilizarlo para lograr el mayor impacto posible si elige esta designación. Eso es porque siempre estamos evaluando las áreas de mayor necesidad en nuestra comunidad católica y trabajando para encontrar las mejores soluciones posibles.

Sus donaciones Ayudan a Servir a Decenas de Miles de Personas en Nuestra Diócesis. ¡Por favor, Haga su Donación Hoy!

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