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President Biden Visits El Paso After Migrant Surge

By Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

Bishop Seitz was one of a handful of dignitaries selected to have the opportunity to meet with President Joe Biden during his visit to El Paso on January 8th. The president's visit was aimed at addressing the ongoing migration surge along the United States-Mexico border.

Bishop Seitz had the opportunity to greet President Biden upon his arrival in El Paso on January 8th, along with Governor Greg Abbot, El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego and El Paso Mayor Oscar Lesser. The Bishop was present at the airport to welcome the president and was also honored with the opportunity to ride with him in the motorcade to the first stop of his visit.

"Riding with the President in the motorcade was a pleasant surprise and a wonderful experience. The President was very warm and cordial and it was a great opportunity for me to get to know him. We had a chance to chat and exchange pleasantries, which made for a comfortable setting before discussing the migration topics later that day," Bishop Seitz said.

During his final meeting with the president that day, Bishop Seitz presented President Biden with a prayer card of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The card had a hand-written prayer on the back from a migrant child named Anika in a Juarez migrant shelter. The prayer, written in Spanish, asked God for help to finish her case quickly so that she could be reunited with her mother and brother.

"I was honored to have the opportunity to present the prayer card from Anika, the migrant child, to the President. It was a powerful reminder of the human cost of the migration crisis and the urgency of finding a solution that reunites families and protects the rights of migrants," Bishop Seitz said.

The president was deeply moved by the prayer and the situation of the child and thanked Bishop Seitz for bringing it to his attention. He assured the Bishop that his administration was committed to addressing the migration surge at the border and finding a solution that would allow children like the one who wrote the prayer to be reunited with their families.

In December of 2022 the



Bishop Seitz presents President Biden with a prayer card of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and a heartfelt plea for reunification from 14-year-old migrant Anika during his visit to El Paso on January 8th. Bishop Seitz handed the prayer card to the president during his meeting alongside Congress Woman Veronica Escobar, Sister Norma Pimental of Brownsville and Ruben Garcia of the Annunciation House. *Photo Courtesy of Bishop Seitz.*

El presidente Biden visita El Paso tras la llegada de migrantes

Por Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

El Obispo Seitz fue uno de los dignatarios seleccionados para tener la oportunidad de reunirse con el Presidente Joe Biden durante su visita a El Paso el 8 de enero. La visita del presidente tenía como objetivo abordar la actual llegada migratoria a lo largo de la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México.

El obispo Seitz tuvo la oportunidad de saludar al presidente Biden a su llegada a El Paso el 8 de enero, junto con el gobernador Greg Abbot, el juez del condado de El Paso Ricardo Samaniego y el alcalde de El Paso Oscar Lesser. El obispo estuvo presente en el aeropuerto para dar la bienvenida al presidente y también tuvo el honor de viajar con él en la caravana hasta la primera parada de su visita.

"Viajar con el Presidente en la caravana fue una agradable sorpresa y una experiencia maravillosa. El Presidente se mostró

muy cálido y cordial, y fue una gran oportunidad para conocerle. Tuvimos la oportunidad de charlar e intercambiar bromas, lo que nos hizo sentirnos cómodos antes de discutir los temas de migración más tarde ese mismo día", dijo el obispo Seitz.

En su último encuentro con el Presidente, Mons. Seitz le regaló una estampa del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. La tarjeta tenía una oración escrita a mano en el reverso por una niña migrante llamada Anika, en un albergue para migrantes de Juárez. La oración, escrita en español, pedía a Dios ayuda para terminar su caso rápidamente y poder reunirse con su madre y su hermano.

"Fue un honor para mí tener la oportunidad de entregar al Presidente la estampa de la niña migrante. Fue un poderoso recordatorio del coste humano de la crisis migratoria y de la urgencia de encontrar una solución que reúna a las familias y proteja los derechos de los migrantes", dijo Mons. Seitz.

El Presidente se sintió profundamente conmovido por la oración y la situación del niño, y dio las gracias al obispo Seitz por llamar su atención. Aseguró al obispo que su administración se comprometía a abordar el aumento de la migración en la frontera y a encontrar una solución que permitiera a niños como el que escribió la oración reunirse con sus familias.

En diciembre de 2022, la situación de los migrantes supuso un reto para la comunidad de El Paso, con un gran número de migrantes que intentaban cruzar a Estados Unidos. En el punto álgido de la crisis en diciembre pasado, la Diócesis Católica de El Paso y el Obispo Mark Seitz se comprometieron a ayudar a proporcionar ayuda a los migrantes. La diócesis abrió hasta 7 refugios en varias parroquias de El Paso para proporcionar asistencia y apoyo a los migrantes necesitados.

En el punto álgido de la oleada, la agencia de Aduanas y

Patrulla Fronteriza (CBP) de El Paso procesó a 2.000 migrantes en la frontera. Los migrantes, muchos de los cuales eran familias con niños pequeños, necesitaban artículos de primera necesidad como comida, ropa y cobijo. Los refugios creados por la diócesis fueron fundamentales para proporcionar asistencia inmediata a los migrantes y ayudar a aliviar parte del sufrimiento causado por la crisis.

La continua oleada migratoria en la frontera sigue siendo un reto y continúa evolucionando, pero la diócesis y el obispo Seitz mantienen su compromiso de ayudar a los migrantes y abogar por políticas justas y compasivas. Los centros de acogida creados por la diócesis han sido un salvavidas crucial para los migrantes, ya que les han proporcionado los artículos de primera necesidad que necesitan para sobrevivir mientras tramitan el proceso legal.

Continued on Pg. 4

EDITOR'S COLUMN - FERNIE CENICEROS

The Musings of a 24-Year-Old On His Birthday

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, on February 13, 2002, a very young seminarian awoke on Ash Wednesday as a 24-year-old with a whole world ahead of his life, and as always, late for Mass!

Did I have to start this article with the Star Wars prologue? Yes, I did, and that's because, dear reader, I'm about to spin a tale of a young man on his 24th birthday that's about to experience what he deserves. Of course, the young man in question was me, in case you hadn't figured it out yet.

You need to know that I tremendously enjoy making people laugh, especially when the person I am trying to make laugh is a superior to me of some kind. In this particular situation, the person I loved to make laugh more than anyone was Fr. John Telles, my St. Charles Seminary Rector.



Fernie Ceniceros

On the said birthday of 2002, I was in the second semester of my second year as a seminarian at St. Charles, which means I had kicked the tires of Seminary life enough to feel more than comfortable in my current role. That said, when I feel comfortable, my mouth tends to follow.

This particular year, it was a

constant barrage of jokes and jests to Fr. John and my brother seminarians and just about anyone who would take the time to listen to me about how February 13 was a special day in which the birds chirped a little louder. The sun shone a little brighter than on other days of the rest of the year. I could have recited the lyrics to *Las Mañanitas*, which still wasn't enough to explain how special February 13 is to anyone who would listen. I couldn't help myself; once Christmas was over and we entered the new year, in cometh the mouth of Fernie and the constant need to make this joke more and more ridiculous. I have to admit, I'm sure I was pretty obnoxious about it, but again I had to make Fr. John laugh at all costs! To this day, I still have to do it if I am ever in his vicinity.

Did I fail to mention that I started the tradition of gen-

tly placing any of my brother seminarians in the shower on their birthday? I wrote the word gently here, right? Yep, I started that small tradition. Of course, we had to have rules, and if someone didn't want to be hazed that way, we would all respect that, but almost everyone almost agreed they wouldn't mind being thrown into a shower on their birthday. We would, of course, make sure the water wasn't cold, and respect someone if they didn't want to get their shoes wet or whatever they would request if they didn't want to go in the shower. I did say I started this tradition, right? Well, I'm sure you know where this story is going, but to my surprise, no shower for me on my birthday, Ash Wednesday.

We were all very cordial; we observed the day and the birthday wishes were at a minimum. I didn't even boast about the

sun shining brighter that day. I thought I was in the clear.

Enter the morning of Valentine's Day 2002, and the sound of *Las Mañanitas* at my door, all 10 of my seminary brothers, greeted me with singing for my birthday. The song was sung, and in the shower, I went, PJs and all. I was not allowed to come out of the shower until all my clothes were wet. I'll admit, I laughed so hard it hurt; this was indeed one of the best birthdays I had ever had.

I am writing this article now as I am ready to enter my 45th year of life, and I am grateful! I am thankful to God for this amazing life I have had the opportunity to live, with laughter, love, and memories of an over-rambunctious 24-year-old who had a clothed shower coming to him. Thank you, Lord, for another year of life!

Reflexiones De Un Joven De 24 Años En Su Cumpleaños

Hace mucho tiempo, en una galaxia muy, muy lejana, el 13 de febrero de 2002, un jovencísimo seminarista se despertó el Miércoles de Ceniza convertido en un joven de 24 años con todo un mundo por delante, y como siempre, ¡tarde a misa!

¿Tenía que empezar este artículo con el prólogo de Star Wars? Sí, así es, y eso es porque, querido lector, estoy a punto de contar la historia de un joven en su 24 cumpleaños que está a punto de experimentar lo que se merece. Por supuesto, el joven en cuestión era yo, por si aún no te habías dado cuenta.

Tienes que saber que disfruto enormemente haciendo reír a la gente, especialmente cuando la persona a la que intento hacer reír es un superior mío de algún tipo. En esta situación concre-

ta, la persona a la que más me gustaba hacer reír era el P. John Telles, mi Rector del Seminario de San Carlos.

En el mencionado cumpleaños de 2002, yo estaba en el segundo semestre de mi segundo año como seminarista en San Carlos, lo que significa que ya había pateado los neumáticos de la vida del Seminario lo suficiente como para sentirme más que cómodo en mi papel actual. Dicho esto, cuando me siento cómodo, mi boca tiende a seguirme.

Este año en particular, fue un aluvión constante de chistes y bromas al P. John y a mis hermanos seminaristas y a cualquiera que se tomara la molestia de escucharme sobre cómo el 13 de febrero era un día especial en el que los pájaros cantaban un poco más alto. El sol brillaba un poco más que en otros días del resto

del año. Podría haber recitado la letra de *Las Mañanitas*, pero aún así no era suficiente para explicar lo especial que es el 13 de febrero a cualquiera que quisiera escucharme. No he podido evitarlo; una vez pasadas las Navidades y entrados en el nuevo año, entra la boca de Fernie y la necesidad constante de hacer esta broma cada vez más ridícula. Tengo que admitirlo, estoy seguro de que fui bastante odioso al respecto, ¡pero de nuevo tenía que hacer reír al P. John a toda costa! A día de hoy, todavía tengo que hacerlo si alguna vez estoy cerca de él.

¿Me olvidé de mencionar que inicié la tradición de meter suavemente a cualquiera de mis hermanos seminaristas en la ducha el día de su cumpleaños? Escribí la palabra suavemente aquí, ¿verdad? Sí, yo inicié esa pequeña tradición. Por supuesto,

teníamos que tener normas, y si alguien no quería ser novato de esa manera, todos lo respetaríamos, pero casi todos estaban de acuerdo en que no les importaría que les metieran en una ducha el día de su cumpleaños. Por supuesto, nos aseguraríamos de que el agua no estuviera fría y respetaríamos si alguien no quería mojarse los zapatos o cualquier otra cosa que pidiera si no quería meterse en la ducha. He dicho que yo empecé esta tradición, ¿verdad? Bueno, seguro que ya sabéis por dónde va esta historia, pero para mi sorpresa, no hubo ducha para mí el día de mi cumpleaños, el Miércoles de Ceniza.

Todos fuimos muy cordiales; observamos el día y los deseos de cumpleaños fueron mínimos. Ni siquiera me jacté de que el sol brillara más ese día. Pensaba que no me había pasado nada.

Llegó la mañana del día de San Valentín de 2002, y el sonido de *Las Mañanitas* en mi puerta, los 10 hermanos del seminario, me saludaron cantando por mi cumpleaños. La canción estaba cantada, y a la ducha me fui, con pijama y todo. No se me permitió salir de la ducha hasta que toda mi ropa estuviera mojada. Lo admito, me reí tanto que me dolía; fue sin duda uno de los mejores cumpleaños que he tenido.

Estoy escribiendo este artículo ahora que estoy a punto de entrar en mi 45º año de vida, ¡y estoy agradecida! Doy gracias a Dios por esta increíble vida que he tenido la oportunidad de vivir, con risas, amor y recuerdos de un alborotado joven de 24 años al que le esperaba una ducha de ropa. ¡Gracias, Señor, por otro año de vida!

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INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH

Catholic Schools: Faith, Excellence, Service

Prior to my entry into college at the University of Dallas and Holy Trinity Seminary my experience of Catholic Schools was limited. My hometown parish's Catholic school didn't start until 5th Grade and then after grade school there was no Catholic high school nearby. Even though the education I received in the public school was a good one, I was delighted to be able to enter our Catholic grade school.

One event really brought home to my young mind the tremendous value of Catholic schools. I will always remember the date. It was November 22, 1963. I was in a public school, sitting in math class early one afternoon when

an announcement came over the loudspeaker: President John F. Kennedy had been shot. I was stunned as were my classmates and teacher. I had come to have a great personal admiration for this bold, well spoken, (and I might add, Catholic) President. Soon another announcement came over the loudspeaker: The President was dead!

I was beside myself. How could school just continue? I wasn't an overly pious kid, but it hit me with crystal clarity. We ought to be praying! No other response is appropriate! But, of course, we couldn't pray. Even back then, in my part of the country at least, the separation of church and state had been

redefined to the point where people felt that religious faith had no place in the public school forum. I began from that point to grow in my conviction that only in a Catholic School setting, with teachers and classmates who shared my faith and values, could I be my true self.

This week we have been celebrating Catholic Schools' Week. The theme this year reminds us, "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service". How true! What a blessing our Catholic schools are! Our schools' enrollment is growing as people discover the tremendous value they are in the formation and education of our most precious asset, our children. Academically our children score



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

higher than their counterparts in public schools. They are more likely to go to college and more likely to graduate from college.

What a great assistance to our families as they seek to raise their children in the ways of Faith! All of our children are

important and we need to re-dedicate ourselves to the religious formation of them all. But there is no way we can assist families in this work more effectively than in a Catholic school.

Escuelas Católicas: Fe, Excelencia, Servicio

Antes de entrar en la Universidad de Dallas y en el Seminario de la Santísima Trinidad, mi experiencia con las escuelas católicas era limitada. La escuela católica de la parroquia de mi ciudad natal no empezó hasta 5º grado y después de la escuela primaria no había una escuela secundaria católica cercana. Aunque la educación que recibí en la escuela pública fue buena, estaba encantado de poder entrar en nuestra escuela católica de primaria.

Un acontecimiento me hizo comprender el enorme valor de

las escuelas católicas. Siempre recordaré la fecha. Era el 22 de noviembre de 1963. Estaba sentado en clase de matemáticas una tarde temprano cuando se oyó un anuncio por megafonía: El presidente John F. Kennedy había sido asesinado. Me quedé atónito, al igual que mis compañeros y mi profesor. Había llegado a sentir una gran admiración personal por este Presidente audaz, bien hablado (y debo añadir, católico). Pronto llegó otro anuncio por megafonía: El Presidente había muerto.

Yo estaba fuera de mí. ¿Cómo

podían continuar las clases? Yo no era un niño demasiado piadoso, pero lo entendí con claridad meridiana. Debemos rezar. Ninguna otra respuesta es apropiada. Pero, por supuesto, no podíamos rezar. Incluso entonces, al menos en mi parte del país, la separación entre Iglesia y Estado se había redefinido hasta el punto de que la gente pensaba que la fe religiosa no tenía cabida en la escuela pública. A partir de ese momento, empecé a convencerme de que sólo en una escuela católica, con profesores y compañeros que compartían mi

fe y mis valores, podría ser yo mismo.

Esta semana hemos celebrado la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas. El tema de este año nos recuerda: "Escuelas Católicas: Fe. Excelencia. Servicio". ¡Qué verdad! ¡Qué bendición son nuestras escuelas católicas! La matrícula de nuestras escuelas está creciendo a medida que la gente descubre el tremendo valor que tienen en la formación y educación de nuestro bien más preciado, nuestros hijos. Desde el punto de vista académico, nuestros niños obtienen mejores

notas que sus compañeros de las escuelas públicas. Tienen más probabilidades de ir a la universidad y más probabilidades de graduarse de la universidad.

¡Qué gran ayuda para nuestras familias cuando tratan de educar a sus hijos en los caminos de la Fe! Todos nuestros hijos son importantes y necesitamos volver a dedicarnos a la formación religiosa de todos ellos. Pero no hay forma más eficaz de ayudar a las familias en esta tarea que en una escuela católica.



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Snapshot of Immigrants in the U.S.

In 2019 more than 44.9 million immigrants lived in the United States and comprised of 13.7 percent of the total U.S. population. 51 percent of all immigrants in the United States in 2019 arrived prior to 2000 (29 percent entered before 1990 and 21 percent between 1990 and 1999), while 25 percent entered between 2000 and 2009. Remaining 25 percent have come since 2010.

Historically in the last few decades, more immigrants have been women and girls than men or boys. In 2019, 52 percent of all U.S. immigrants were female. They accounted for 53 percent of the immigrant population in 1980, 51 percent in 1990, 50 percent in 2000, and 51 percent in 2010.

In 2019, 45 percent of immigrants reported their race as single-race White, 27 percent as Asian, 10 percent as Black, and 15 percent as some other race. About 2 percent reported having two or more races. In the same year 44 percent of U.S. immigrants (19.8 million people) reported having Hispanic or Latino ethnic origins.

Approximately 17.8 million U.S. children under age 18 lived with at least one immigrant parent in 2019. They accounted for 26 percent of the 68.9 million children under age 18 in the United States.

This fact sheet provides information on immigrants in the U.S. in order to:

1. Immigrants contribute to our economy

According to an analysis of 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) data by the New American Economy, immigrants (14 percent of the U.S. population) wield \$1.3 trillion in spending power. In some of the largest state economies contributions by immigrants are substantial. For example, in Texas the immigrant share of the population is 17 percent and immigrant spending power is \$120 billion.

2. Immigrants pay taxes

Immigrants pay taxes, in the form of income, property, sales, and taxes at the federal and state level. In 2019, immigrants collectively paid more than \$492 billion in taxes (\$330.7 billion in federal income taxes), including more than \$30 billion in taxes paid by undocumented immigrants. Tax Foundation estimates that American and immigrant taxpayers paid \$1.6 trillion in individual income taxes in 2019. In this context, it's important to note that immigrants made up only 13.5% of the U.S. population in 2020, meaning that immigrants consistently make an outsized contribution to the U.S. revenue system.

3. Immigrants sustain U.S. food supply

More than 1 in 5 of all workers that supply the U.S. food supply chain are foreign-born. This includes growing crops, harvesting fruits and vegetables, processing meat, transporting products and materials, and engaging in wholesale and retail sales. California supplies over a third of the America's vegetables and three-quarters of the country's fruits and 69 percent of all agricultural workers in California are foreign-born.

4. Immigrants contribute to U.S. workforce

In 2019, people of working age (18 to 64 years) comprised 78 percent of the immigrant population, a much higher figure than the 59 percent of those born in the United States. In addition, immigrants constituted 17 percent (28.6 million people) of the civilian labor force (166.3 million) and of the 27.6 million employed foreign-born workers ages 16 and older in 2019, the largest share (35 percent) worked in management, professional, and related occupations.

5. Immigrants are entrepreneurs and create jobs

Research conducted in 2020 using three datasets found that between 2005-2010, 0.83 percent of immigrants in the workforce started a firm, while just 0.46 percent of U.S.-born ones did. Data also found that 7.25 percent of immigrants were entrepreneurs, compared with about 4 percent of native-born individuals. In both these cases, the rate of founding businesses is 80 percent higher among the non-U.S.-born than among the U.S.-born. In addition, researchers found that out of 449 large Fortune 500 companies, 96 of these companies had at least one immigrant founder leading researchers to conclude that immigrants overwhelmingly create more jobs in the U.S. than they take.

6. Majority of Immigrants are in the country legally

Almost 77 percent of today's immigrants are in the country legally with 45 percent of immigrants being naturalized citizens, 27 percent permanent residents, 23 percent unauthorized, and 5 percent temporary residents. Of the 23 percent that entered the country unauthorized undocumented, 40 percent overstayed temporary (non-immigrant) visas.

7. Immigrant share of U.S. population hasn't changed over time

Immigrants today make up the same share of the population as they did 100 years ago.

Today, immigrants make up almost 14 percent of the U.S. population. During the Age of Mass Migration from Europe from 1880-1920, the same share of the U.S. population was born abroad (14 percent).

8. Immigrants do not endanger public health

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in 2020, policies attempting to bar immigrants and refugees from entering into the United States were based on unfounded grounds of public health concerns and fear of spreading COVID-19. As the pandemic took hold, health experts stressed that continuing immigration and asylum processing would not further spread the coronavirus, but rather that closing the border would actually negatively affect public health by disrupting flow of goods including medical supplies and food and also contribute to overcrowding on both sides of the border.

9. Immigrants were at the forefront of help during the COVID-19 pandemic

In 2020 due to the pandemic the Department of Homeland Security took steps to label some workers "essential," excluding them from local and state stay-at-home orders. Immigrants disproportionately work in the jobs that were labeled essential. In 2020, there were 19.8 million foreign-born "essential" workers, working in jobs arrayed across sectors and skill-levels. A higher share, 69 percent of all immigrants, and undocumented immigrants 74 percent, are in the essential work categories compared to native-born workers at 65 percent.

For more information on these facts and others, please visit the following non-partisan organizations websites:

Pew Research Center

<https://www.pewresearch.org>

Migration Policy Institute

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org>

Center for Migration Studies

<https://cmsny.org>



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

Fr. Enrique Omar Soto Ramirez, OFM

Fr. Peter Precourt, AA

Fr. Francisco Lopez Camarena, OFM

Fr. Mariano Lopez

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Bishop Seitz addresses members of the media at a press conference hosted by Congresswoman Veronica Escobar following President Biden's visit to the Borderland. Photo by Fernie Ceniceros

Continued from Pg. 1

migrant situation provided a challenge to the El Paso community, with a large number of migrants attempting to cross into the United States. At the height of the crisis last December, the Catholic Diocese of El Paso and Bishop Mark Seitz were committed to helping provide aid to the migrants. The diocese opened up to 7 shelters at various parishes in El Paso to provide assistance and support to migrants in need.

At the height of the surge, El Paso saw as many as 2,000 migrants processed at the border by Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agency. The migrants, many of whom were families with young children, were in need of basic necessities such as

food, clothing, and shelter. The shelters set up by the diocese were instrumental in providing immediate assistance to the migrants and helping to alleviate some of the suffering caused by the crisis.

The continuing migration surge at the border remains challenging and continues to evolve, but the diocese and Bishop Seitz remain committed to helping migrants and advocating for just and compassionate policies. The shelters set up by the diocese have been a crucial lifeline for migrants, providing them with the basic necessities they need to survive while they navigate the legal process.

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Pope Benedict XVI Passes Into Eternal Life On December 31, 2022

Staff Report - Pope Benedict XVI, the head of the Catholic Church, passed away on January 31, 2022 at the age of 96. His death was announced by the Vatican, which stated that the Pope had died peacefully in his sleep at the papal residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy. Pope Benedict XVI, born Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger, was elected as the 265th Pope in 2005, succeeding Pope John Paul II. He was the first Pope to resign in over 600 years, stepping down in 2013 due to health reasons.

At his inaugural speech as Pope Benedict the XVI he expressed his gratitude to Pope John Paul II and the cardinals for entrusting him with this great honor.

"Dear brothers and sisters, after the great Pope John Paul II, the Cardinals have elected me, a simple, humble laborer in the vineyard of the Lord. The fact that the Lord knows how to work and to act even with insufficient instruments comforts me, and above all I entrust myself to your prayers. In the joy of the Risen Lord, confident of his unfailing help, let us move forward. The Lord will help us, and Mary, His Most Holy Mother, will be on our side. Thank you," Pope Benedict said.

The Pope explained his choice of name during his first general audience in St. Peter's Square, on 27 April 2005:

"I wish to speak of why I chose the name Benedict. Firstly, I remember Pope Benedict XV, that courageous prophet of peace, who guided the Church through turbulent times of war. In his

footsteps, I place my ministry in the service of reconciliation and harmony between peoples. Additionally, I recall Saint Benedict of Nursia, co-patron of Europe, whose life evokes the Christian roots of Europe. I ask him to help us all to hold firm to the centrality of Christ in our Christian life: May Christ always take first place in our thoughts and actions!"

Ordained as a priest in 1951 in his native Bavaria, Ratzinger embarked on an academic career and established himself as a highly regarded theologian. He was appointed a full professor in 1958 at the age of 31. After a long career as a professor of theology at several German universities, he was appointed Archbishop of Munich and Freising and created a cardinal by Pope Paul VI in 1977, an unusual promotion for someone with little pastoral experience. In 1981, he was appointed Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, one of the most important dicasteries of the Roman Curia.

Benedict's writings were prolific and generally defended traditional Catholic doctrine, values, and liturgy. During his papacy, Benedict advocated a return to fundamental Christian values to counter the increased secularisation of many Western countries. He was described as "the main intellectual force in the Church" since the mid-1980s.

The Pope wrote more than 60 books and numerous papal documents, including three important encyclicals. Benedict wrote Deus caritas est (Latin for "God is



Love"), Spe Salvi ("Saved by Hope"), and Caritas in veritate ("Love in Truth"). In his first encyclical, Deus caritas est, he said that a human being, created in the image of God who is love, can practice love: to give himself to God and others receiving and experiencing God's love in contemplation. Benedict's second encyclical Spe Salvi ("Saved by Hope"), about the virtue of hope, was released on 30 November 2007. His third encyclical titled Caritas in veritate ("Love in Truth" or "Charity in Truth"), was signed on 29 June 2009. In it, the Pope continued the Church's teachings

on social justice. He condemned the prevalent economic system "where the pernicious effects of sin are evident," and called on people to rediscover ethics in business and economic relations. Pope Benedict was a brilliant theologian, and many are calling for him to be called officially a "Doctor" of the Church."

Among his many travels, in April 2008, Benedict made his first visit to the United States since becoming pope. He arrived in Washington, DC where he was formally received at the White House and met privately with US President George W. Bush. While in Washington,

the pope addressed representatives of US Catholic universities, met with leaders of other world religions, and celebrated Mass at the Washington Nationals' baseball stadium with 47,000 people. The Pope travelled to New York where he addressed the United Nations General Assembly. Also while in New York, the Pope celebrated Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, met with disabled children and their families, and attended an event for Catholic youth, where he addressed some 25,000 young people in attendance. On the final day of the Pope's visit, he visited the World Trade Center site and later celebrated Mass at Yankee Stadium.

Pope Benedict was a very holy man, a gifted theologian, who gave his life to the service of God's people. One of his most famous sayings was: "Christianity is not 'a new philosophy or a new form of morality,' but an encounter with the person of Christ, an event that ignites a personal relationship with Him."

On 11 February 2013, Benedict announced his resignation, citing a "lack of strength of mind and body" due to his advanced age. His resignation was the first by a pope since Gregory XII in 1415, and the first on a pope's initiative since Celestine V in 1294.

Pope Francis, his successor, said this about Pope Benedict, "The Crucified and Risen, the Living One and the Lord, was the destination to which Pope Benedict led us, taking us by the hand. May he help us rediscover in Christ the joy of believing and the hope of living."

El Papa Benedicto XVI Pasa A La Vida Eterna El 31 De Diciembre De 2022

Informe De Personal - El Papa Benedicto XVI, cabeza de la Iglesia católica, falleció el 31 de enero de 2022 a la edad de 96 años. Su muerte fue anunciada por el Vaticano, que declaró que el Papa había muerto pacíficamente mientras dormía en la residencia papal de Castel Gandolfo, Italia. Benedicto XVI, nacido Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger, fue elegido 265º Papa en 2005, sucediendo a Juan Pablo II. Fue el primer Papa en renunciar en más de 600 años, dimitiendo en 2013 por motivos de salud.

En su discurso inaugural como Papa Benedicto XVI expresó su gratitud al Papa Juan Pablo II y a los cardenales por confiarle este gran honor.

"Queridos hermanos y hermanas, después del gran Papa Juan Pablo II, los cardenales me han elegido a mí, un sencillo y humilde trabajador de la viña del Señor. Me conforta el hecho de que el Señor sabe trabajar y actuar incluso con instrumentos insuficientes, y sobre todo me encomienda a vuestras oraciones. En la alegría del Señor resueltamente, confiados en su ayuda indefectible, sigamos adelante. El Señor nos ayudará, y María, su Santísima Madre, estará de nuestra parte. Gracias", dijo el Papa Benedicto.

El Papa explicó la elección del

nombre durante su primera audiencia general en la Plaza de San Pedro, el 27 de abril de 2005:

"Deseo hablar de por qué elegí el nombre de Benedicto. En primer lugar, recuerdo al Papa Benedicto XV, aquel valiente profeta de la paz, que guió a la Iglesia en tiempos turbulentos de guerra. Siguiendo sus huellas, pongo mi ministerio al servicio de la reconciliación y la concordia entre los pueblos. Además, recuerdo a san Benito de Nursia, copatrón de Europa, cuya vida evoca las raíces cristianas de Europa. Le pido que nos ayude a todos a mantener firme la centralidad de Cristo en nuestra vida cristiana: ¡Que Cristo ocupe siempre el primer lugar en nuestros pensamientos y en nuestras acciones!

Ordenado sacerdote en 1951 en su Baviera natal, Ratzinger emprendió una carrera académica y se estableció como un teólogo de gran prestigio. Fue nombrado profesor titular en 1958, a la edad de 31 años. Tras una larga carrera como profesor de teología en varias universidades alemanas, fue nombrado arzobispo de Munich y Freising y creado cardenal por el Papa Pablo VI en 1977, una promoción inusual para alguien con poca experiencia pastoral. En 1981 fue nombrado Prefecto de la Congregación para

la Doctrina de la Fe, uno de los dicasterios más importantes de la Curia Romana.

Los escritos de Benedicto fueron prolíficos y, por lo general, defendían la doctrina, los valores y la liturgia católicos tradicionales. Durante su papado, Benedicto abogó por un retorno a los valores cristianos fundamentales para contrarrestar la creciente secularización de muchos países occidentales. Se le describió como "la principal fuerza intelectual de la Iglesia" desde mediados de los años ochenta.

El Papa escribió más de 60 libros y numerosos documentos pontificios, entre ellos tres importantes encíclicas. Benedicto escribió Deus caritas est ("Dios es amor" en latín), Spe Salvi ("Salvados por la esperanza") y Caritas in veritate ("Amor en la verdad"). En su primera encíclica, Deus caritas est, decía que el ser humano, creado a imagen de Dios que es amor, puede practicar el amor: entregarse a Dios y a los demás recibiendo y experimentando el amor de Dios en la contemplación. La segunda encíclica de Benedicto XVI, Spe Salvi ("Salvados por la esperanza"), sobre la virtud de la esperanza, se publicó el 30 de noviembre de 2007. Su tercera encíclica, titulada Caritas in veritate

("Amor en la verdad" o "Caridad en la verdad"), fue firmada el 29 de junio de 2009. En ella, el Papa continuó las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre la justicia social. Condenó el sistema económico imperante, "en el que son evidentes los efectos perniciosos del pecado", e hizo un llamamiento a redescubrir la ética en los negocios y las relaciones económicas.

El Papa Benedicto era un teólogo brillante, y muchos pidieron que se le llame oficialmente "Doctor" de la Iglesia".

Entre sus muchos viajes, en abril de 2008, Benedicto realizó su primera visita a Estados Unidos desde que fuera Papa. Llegó a Washington, DC, donde fue recibido formalmente en la Casa Blanca y se reunió en privado con el Presidente George W. Bush. Durante su estancia en Washington, el Papa se dirigió a representantes de universidades católicas estadounidenses,

se reunió con líderes de otras religiones del mundo y celebró una misa en el estadio de béisbol de los Washington Nationals ante 47.000 personas. El Papa viajó a Nueva York, donde se dirigió a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. También durante su estancia en Nueva York, el Papa celebró una Misa en la catedral de San Patricio, se reunió con niños discapacitados

y sus familias, y asistió a un acto para la juventud católica, en el que se dirigió a unos 25.000 jóvenes asistentes. El último día de su visita, visitó el World Trade Center y celebró una misa en el estadio de los Yankees.

El Papa Benedicto era un hombre muy santo, un teólogo dotado, que entregó su vida al servicio del pueblo de Dios. Una de sus frases más famosas fue: "El cristianismo no es 'una nueva filosofía o una nueva forma de moral', sino un encuentro con la persona de Cristo, un acontecimiento que enciende una relación personal con Él."

El 11 de febrero de 2013, Benedicto anunció su dimisión, alegando "falta de fuerza de mente y cuerpo" debido a su avanzada edad. Su renuncia fue la primera de un Papa desde Gregorio XII en 1415, y la primera por iniciativa de un Papa desde Celestino V en 1294.

El Papa Francisco, su sucesor, dijo lo siguiente sobre el Papa Benedicto: "El Crucificado y Resucitado, el Viviente y el Señor, fue el destino al que nos condujo el Papa Benedicto, llevándonos de la mano. Que nos ayude a redescubrir en Cristo la alegría de creer y la esperanza de vivir."

By Patrick Giuliani
Hope Border Institute

The Catholic Church has a long and storied history of standing up for social justice and the rights of marginalized people. From the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, to the ongoing struggle for immigrant rights today, the Church has been a powerful voice for those who have been denied equality and dignity.

The Civil Rights Movement was a defining moment in American history, as African Americans and other minorities fought for the right to vote, equal access to education and employment, and an end to discrimination in all forms. Catholic leaders, including priests, nuns, and laypeople, were actively involved in the

Hope Border Institute

A History of Our Faith in Action

movement. They marched alongside activists, provided sanctuary and support to those who were harassed and attacked, and spoke out against racism and injustice. The likes of Father Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., Archbishop Joseph Rummel and Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA, were prominent figures in the Catholic Church who have made great contributions to the movement.

Despite the progress made during the Civil Rights Movement, discrimination and injustice continue to be a reality for many people in our society today, particularly for people on the move and asylum seekers. Our border communities are currently facing a humanitarian crisis, as thousands of people flee violence and persecution in their home countries in search of safe-

ty and a better life in the United States. Many of these families are fleeing war-torn countries, political instability, and extreme poverty. They leave behind everything they know and love in the hopes of finding a better life in the United States, but all too often they are met with hostility, discrimination, and a lack of support from the very country that is supposed to offer them refuge.

As Catholics, it is our duty to welcome these asylum seekers with open arms and offer them the support and assistance they need. This includes providing basic necessities such as food, shelter, and medical care, as well as advocating for their rights and fair treatment. It also includes educating ourselves and others about the realities of the immigration system and the

reasons why so many people are forced to leave their homes in the first place. By understanding the underlying issues that are driving the migration crisis, we can advocate for policies and programs that address the root causes of the problem, instead of just treating the symptoms.

We are called to be a light in the darkness and to stand with the marginalized and oppressed. By supporting the rights of those seeking protection, we are fulfilling that call and living out the principles of social justice that are at the heart of our faith. Let us continue to work towards a more just and equitable society, and make sure that everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity and respect. Let us remember the words of Pope Francis: "Migrants and refugees

are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women and men who leave or are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having the possibility of dignifying their lives."

Patrick Giuliani is a policy analyst at the Hope Border Institute. The Hope Border Institute brings the perspective of Catholic social teaching to bear on the realities unique to our US-Mexico border region. Through a robust program of research and policy work, leadership development and action, we work to build justice and deepen solidarity across the borderlands. For more ways to get involved and support people on the move, visit www.hopeborder.org.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Presentation of The Baby Jesus Christ

By Martha Marmolejo
Pledge Fulfillment Specialist

The month of February is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Family. Between the events which marked Christmas and the beginning of Christ's public life, the Church has seen fit to recall the example of the Holy Family for the emulation of the Christian family.

Therefore, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ is celebrated on February 2nd., or Candlemas forms a fitting transition from Christmas to Easter. The small Christ-Child is still in His Mother's arms, but already she is offering Him in sacrifice.

The Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd harkens back to the Christmas mystery of Light except that now, Christ, the helpless baby, is "the Light of Revelation to the Gentiles who will save his

people from their sins." Candles, symbolizing Christ our Light, will be carried in the procession this day, as will be the Paschal candle during the Easter Vigil Liturgy. Catholic Culture

This reminds me of the day I took my boys to receive their baptisms. I was very happy and thought I was done with my Christian duties as a mother. When it came time for their first communion, I took them to church, but only because my mother kept bothering me about it!

By the time their confirmation came around, I regretted I had not followed through with their Catholic teachings. I had some serious issues as they became teenagers, especially with my youngest. Nevertheless, they did receive all of their sacraments, including their confirmation.

I always knew and was taught that God existed, but in my mind, I saw Him as just an amazing,

far away, sort-of-not-so-real story. Back when my kids were very young, little did I know that 40 days after Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary went to the temple in Jerusalem to complete Mary's ritual purification, as well as to present baby Jesus Christ to the highest priests as the son of God, the savior of humankind and the humble lamb who was to die at the cross for all mankind's sins. I cannot imagine what went through Joseph's and Mother Mary's heads as they were delivering their baby boy to the highest priests who were to judge Him in the most horrible and hardest way.

Now that I think about it, I was also one to judge God as some fiction story. As someone who existed only in the minds of elders, as my parents, and grandparents. But, thank God He has a plan for all of us, and He had a wonderful blessed plan for me! That plan soon guided me

to return to the feet of my Lord Jesus Christ. He showed me the way back to His precious mercy and love. For I honestly and truly believe in the scripture: Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. Deuteronomy 7:9

Today I bow before the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph as I realize the pain they went through knowing that their precious son would go through such immense suffering for me... for humanity.

I want to invite all our faithful donors who have pledged to this campaign, to please honor your promises to the We Are the Body of Christ, Campaign. Our faith is alive because of our gracious and generous community of donors, who continue to support our church through the We Are the Body of Christ Campaign by

sustaining us in educating our priests and deacons to prepare to be our immediate future shepherds, our religious formation and education programs and last, but not least, future parish emergencies.

Thanks to 7,360 faithful, generous parishioners out of 40,390, the Campaign continues flourishing by fulfilling its commitment. We have now raised \$14,839,051.62 in pledges of \$4,400,308.00 in payments.

Should you have any questions about fulfilling your pledge, do not hesitate to reach out to Martha Marmolejo, Pledge Fulfillment Specialist, for the We Are the Body of Christ, Capital Campaign at 915-872-8412 ext. 137 or email at mmarmolejo@elpasodiocese.org

Presentación del Niño Jesús

Por Martha Marmolejo
Especialista en promesas

El mes de febrero está tradicionalmente dedicado a la Sagrada Familia. Entre los acontecimientos que marcaron la Navidad y el inicio de la vida pública de Cristo, la Iglesia ha considerado oportuno recordar el ejemplo de la Sagrada Familia para emulación de la familia cristiana.

Por eso, la fiesta de la Presentación de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que se celebra el 2 de febrero, o de la Candelaria, constituye una transición adecuada de la Navidad a la Pascua. El pequeño Niño Jesús está todavía en los brazos de su Madre, pero ella ya lo ofrece en sacrificio.

La solemnidad de la Presentación del Señor, el 2 de febrero, recuerda el misterio navideño de la Luz, salvo que ahora Cristo, el niño indefenso, es "la Luz de la Revelación a los gentiles, que salvará a su pueblo de sus pecan-

dos". Las velas, que simbolizan a Cristo nuestra Luz, se llevarán en la procesión de este día, al igual que el cirio pascual durante la Liturgia de la Vigilia Pascual. Cultura católica

Esto me recuerda el día en que llevé a mis hijos a recibir el bautismo. Yo estaba muy contenta y pensaba que ya había terminado con mis deberes cristianos de madre. Cuando llegó el momento de la primera comunión, los llevé a la iglesia, ¡pero sólo porque mi madre no dejaba de molestarme!

Cuando llegó el momento de su confirmación, me arrepentí de no haber seguido sus enseñanzas católicas. Tuve serios problemas cuando se hicieron adolescentes, sobre todo con el más joven. Sin embargo, recibieron todos los sacramentos, incluida la confirmación.

Siempre supe y me enseñaron que Dios existía, pero en mi mente, lo veía sólo como una historia increíble, lejana, algo

así como no tan real. Cuando mis hijos eran muy pequeños, no sabía que 40 días después del nacimiento de Jesús, José y María fueron al templo de Jerusalén para completar la purificación ritual de María, así como para presentar al niño Jesucristo a los sumos sacerdotes como el hijo de Dios, el salvador de la humanidad y el humilde cordero que iba a morir en la cruz por los pecados de toda la humanidad. No puedo imaginar lo que pasó por la cabeza de José y de la Madre María mientras entregaban a su bebé a los sumos sacerdotes que iban a juzgarle de la forma más horrible y dura.

Ahora que lo pienso, yo también juzgaba a Dios como una historia de ficción. Como alguien que sólo existía en la mente de los mayores, como mis padres y abuelos. Pero, gracias a Dios Él tiene un plan para todos nosotros, ¡y Él tenía un maravilloso y bendito plan para mí! Ese plan

pronto me guió a regresar a los pies de mi Señor Jesucristo. Él me mostró el camino de regreso a Su preciosa misericordia y amor. Porque honesta y verdaderamente creo en la escritura: Conoce, pues, que el Señor tu Dios es Dios; él es el Dios fiel, que guarda su pacto de amor hasta las mil generaciones de los que le aman y guardan sus mandamientos. Deuteronomio 7,9

Hoy me inclino ante la Virgen María y San José al darme cuenta del dolor que sufrieron al saber que su precioso hijo pasaría por un sufrimiento tan inmenso por mí... por la humanidad.

Quiero invitar a todos nuestros fieles donantes que se han comprometido con esta campaña, a que por favor cumplan sus promesas a la Campaña Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo. Nuestra fe está viva gracias a nuestra amable y generosa comunidad de donantes, que siguen apoyando a nuestra iglesia a través de

la Campaña Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo, sosteniéndonos en la educación de nuestros sacerdotes y diáconos para que se准备 para ser nuestros futuros pastores inmediatos, nuestros programas de formación y educación religiosa y por último, pero no menos importante, las futuras emergencias parroquiales.

Gracias a 7.360 fieles y generosos feligreses de un total de 40.390, la Campaña sigue floreciendo cumpliendo su compromiso. Ya hemos recaudado \$14,839,051.62 en promesas de \$4,400,308.00 en pagos.

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta sobre el cumplimiento de su promesa, no dude en ponerse en contacto con Martha Marmolejo, Especialista en Cumplimiento de Promesas, para la Campaña Capital Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo al 915-872-8412 ext. 137 o por correo electrónico a mmarmolejo@elpasodiocese.org.

Being A Godparent Is More Than Just An Honor, Its A Lifelong Role



Fr. Michael Lewis, STL

A child's baptism is a seminal event in his or her life. In addition to being reborn in the Spirit and cleansed of their sins, they become incorporated into God's family as his adopted sons and daughters, and into the Church as members of the Body of Christ. As the ones who ask the Church to baptize their child, parents have the primary responsibility of raising them in the faith. But they are not alone in this duty. Godparents are chosen to help and support the parents, and nurture and guide the child.

Though in many families, godparents often assume additional cultural and familial roles, it is good to remember the fundamental tasks that are inherent in the word *god-parent*: "to represent both the wider spiritual family of the one to be baptized" and "to help the parents so that the child will come to profess the faith and to express it in life," the *Order of Baptism of Children* explains. During the baptismal liturgy, godparents must confirm their readiness and willingness, together with the parents, to assume this important role as

models and teachers of the Catholic faith.

For this reason, the Church has established some universal requirements that godparents must meet. First, a child can have one godmother or one godfather, or one of each. Godparents must be at least 16 years old, and since they are assisting the parents at the child's first sacrament of initiation, godparents must be fully initiated Catholics themselves (that is, be baptized, confirmed and have received their First Communion). Non-Catholic Christians can be a "witness" at a child's baptism, but cannot serve as godparents, since they will not be able to model the Catholic faith for the child.

As Christian role models, godparents should be "living a life consistent with faith and the responsibility of a godparent" and be able to celebrate the sacraments alongside their godchildren as they grow. Accordingly, people who have been married civilly but not in the Church, or who are divorced and remarried outside the Church, cannot serve as godparents without first regularizing their situation with the Church.

Godparents' special role starts at the beginning of the celebration of baptism, when they are asked if they are ready to help the parents in their duty and responsibility to raise the child in the faith. Later, they and all the baptized present renew the promises made at their own baptism,



renouncing Satan and professing their faith. Though at one time, godparents made these promises on behalf of the child, the rite today has everyone "proudly" renew these promises together. "At the end, the whole assembly gives its 'Amen' to what has occurred, reminding all present that this act of professing faith is one of entering a community of believers," Michael Witczak writes. "All members of the Christian community have a stake in this child's future."

After the baptism itself, a candle presented by a parent or godparent is lit from the large Paschal candle, symbolizing the light of Christ that is being

entrusted to the parents and godparents. They are charged with keeping this light "burning brightly, so that your child, enlightened by Christ, may walk always as a child of the light." The assembly is then reminded that baptism is merely the beginning of this child's life of faith, and that the child will complete their Christian initiation by sharing the Eucharist in Holy Communion, and being sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit at their Confirmation. It goes without saying that this will only be possible with the support and guidance of the child's parents and godparents. In fact, the Church's preference is that the child's baptismal godparents reprise their role

later as the child's Confirmation sponsors. This emphasizes the link between Baptism and Confirmation, but also reiterates the godparents' ongoing role in forming and modeling their godchild's faith.

Indeed, to be called a child's "godparent" is more than just a title or honorific. It is a sacred duty to help the child's parents raise a new Christian, and guide the child in becoming an active member of God's people. This is a years-long — indeed life-long — commitment of faith, hope, and love. But, God blesses and strengthens godparents for this important role — to help their godchildren walk in the newness of life.

Ser Padrino Es Más Que Un Honor, Es Un Papel Para Toda La Vida

El bautismo de un niño es un acontecimiento fundamental en su vida. Además de renacer en el Espíritu y quedar limpios de sus pecados, se incorporan a la familia de Dios como sus hijos e hijas adoptivos, y a la Iglesia como miembros del Cuerpo de Cristo. Como quienes piden a la Iglesia que bautice a sus hijos, los padres tienen la responsabilidad primordial de educarlos en la fe. Pero no están solos en este deber. Los padrinos son elegidos para ayudar y apoyar a los padres, y nutrir y guiar al niño.

Aunque en muchas familias los padrinos suelen asumir funciones culturales y familiares adicionales, conviene recordar las tareas fundamentales inherentes a la palabra *padrino*: "representa a la familia, como extensión espiritual de la misma, y a la Madre Iglesia" y "ayuda a los padres para que el niño llegue a profesar la fe y a expresarla en su vida", explica la *Ritual para el Bautismo de los Niños*. Durante la

liturgia bautismal, los padrinos deben confirmar su disposición y voluntad, junto con los padres, de asumir este importante papel como modelos y maestros de la fe católica.

Por esta razón, la Iglesia ha establecido algunos requisitos universales que los padrinos deben cumplir. En primer lugar, un niño puede tener una madrina o un padrino, o uno de cada. Los padrinos deben tener al menos 16 años, y puesto que asisten a los padres en el primer sacramento de iniciación del niño, los padrinos deben ser católicos plenamente iniciados (es decir, estar bautizados, confirmados y haber recibido la Primera Comunión). Los cristianos no católicos pueden ser "testigos" en el bautismo de un niño, pero no pueden servir como padrinos, ya que no serán capaces de modelar la fe católica para el niño.

Como modelos cristianos, los padrinos deben llevar "una vida congruente con la fe y con

la misión que va a asumir" y poder celebrar los sacramentos junto a sus ahijados a medida que crecen. En consecuencia, las personas que se hayan casado civilmente pero no por la Iglesia, o que se hayan divorciado y vuelto a casar fuera de la Iglesia, no pueden ejercer de padrinos sin regularizar antes su situación con la Iglesia.

El papel especial de los padrinos comienza al inicio de la celebración del bautismo, cuando se les pregunta si están dispuestos a ayudar a los padres en su deber y responsabilidad de educar al niño en la fe. Después, ellos y todos los bautizados presentes renuevan las promesas hechas en su propio bautismo, renunciando a Satanás y profesando su fe. Aunque en un tiempo los padrinos hacían estas promesas en nombre del niño, en el rito de hoy "nos gloriamos" de renovar juntos estas promesas. "Al final, toda la asamblea da su 'Amén' a lo que ha ocurrido, recordando a

todos los presentes que este acto de profesar la fe es el de entrar en una comunidad de creyentes", escribe Michael Witczak. "Todos los miembros de la comunidad cristiana tienen un interés en el futuro de este niño".

Después del bautismo, se enciende una vela del gran cirio pasqual, presentada por uno de los padres o padrinos, que simboliza la luz de Cristo que se confía a los padres y padrinos. Se les encarga que mantengan esta luz "a fin de que este niño, que ha sido iluminado por Cristo, camine siempre como hijo de la luz". A continuación, se recuerda a la asamblea que el bautismo no es más que el comienzo de la vida de fe de este niño, y que el niño completará su iniciación cristiana compartiendo la Eucaristía en la Sagrada Comunión, y siendo sellado con el don del Espíritu Santo en su Confirmación. Ni que decir tiene que esto sólo será posible con el apoyo y la guía de los padres y padrinos del niño.

De hecho, la Iglesia prefiere que los padrinos de bautismo del niño vuelvan a desempeñar su papel más tarde como padrinos de Confirmación del niño. Esto enfatiza el vínculo entre el Bautismo y la Confirmación, pero también reitera el papel continuo de los padrinos en formar y modular la fe de su ahijado.

De hecho, ser llamado "padrino" de un niño es más que un título u honorífico. Es un deber sagrado ayudar a los padres del niño a criar a un nuevo cristiano, y guiar al niño para que se convierta en un miembro activo del pueblo de Dios. Se trata de un compromiso de fe, esperanza y amor que dura años, incluso toda la vida. Pero Dios bendice y fortalece a los padrinos para este importante papel: ayudar a sus ahijados a caminar en la novedad de la vida.

The Shepherd's Corner

Gifts & Books

Hours of Operation:

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

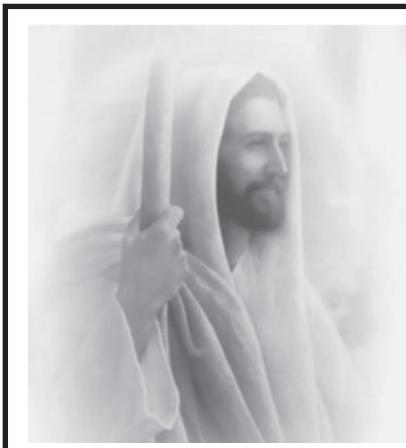
Wednesday - Friday 9 am -12 pm

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

Saturday 5 - 6

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

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



Where Do We See God?



Janet M. Crowe

A toddler bumped her toy along the top of the pew behind me before dropping it onto the seat nearby. Looking up from my prayers, I glanced back at the little girl who was reaching over the back of the pew and then smiled at the father who pulled the toy and his daughter back onto the seat beside him. Several times during the Mass, my attention was drawn to the toddler's antics and the parents' silent frustration in trying to keep the little girl as quiet as possible.

Later I tried to reassure the harried parents that even active little ones are welcome in church. I believe there are more people who enjoy watching the little ones than there are people who are annoyed by them, but it's hard to convince the parents of that.

If we cannot recognize the presence of Christ in a squirmy, wiggly little child, can we truly recognize the presence of Christ in the Eucharist?

Once, not too many years ago, a group of us were asked a similar question.

Close your eyes. Now picture

in your mind an image of God present in the world today. How do we actually see God in the world around us? Maybe a miracle to show that God is with us in our world?

Answers included a lovely sunset, a beautiful flower, a fuzzy lamb, a peaceful mountain landscape, and a powerful waterfall. Each person sighed as they shared their image that reflected God's presence to them in the world.

However, the presenter said he was puzzled and a little disappointed. Did no one picture in their mind the image of a person?

God's greatest miracles are His children, the people in our lives, because every person, young and old, possesses a piece of God Himself within them. God places a piece of Himself in each of us – our soul – meant to guide us back to Him.

"Do we not see God in the people around us?" the presenter asked.

Yes, I have seen God in the actions of my brother when he came to help us clean up after a flood. It was surely the goodness of God within my sister when she made a stuffed bear out of my mother's favorite coat so that I could know that my mother was still near and maybe feel her hug once more. I can see God's love in the generosity and loving care that our daughter sews into the quilts she makes for others. Even little things reveal God's loving care for us such as a sweet husband who goes out to get

me a mocha frappe for lunch, even though we have food in the house, because he knows the chocolaty treat will lift my spirits. Yes, I agreed that I could see God around me in the people I love.

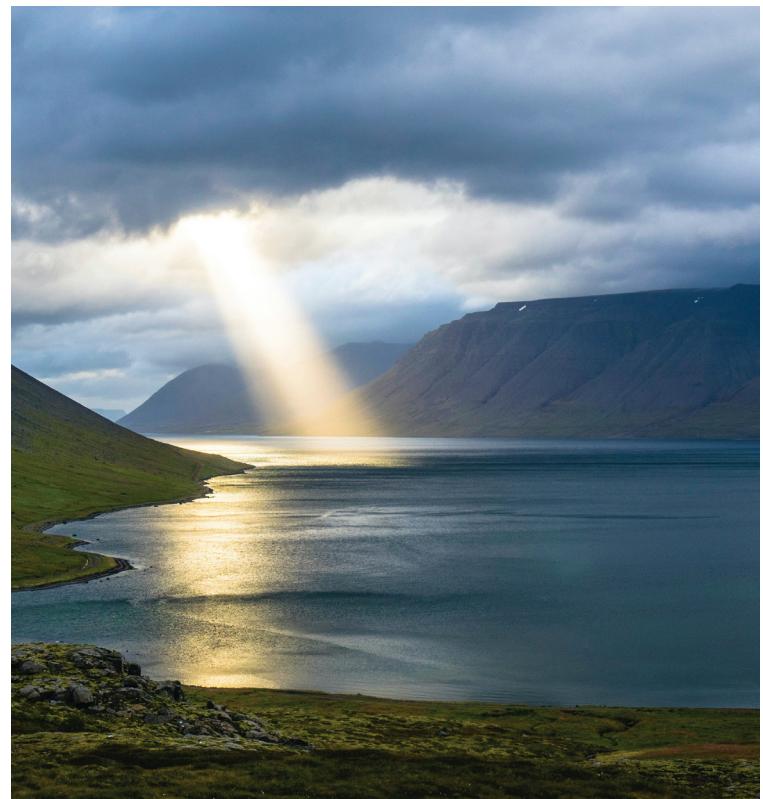
Ah, but reach a little deeper, we were told.

What about a homeless person, dirty and scarred by life's problems? Do we see that Jesus is present, under the layers of distress and pain, just as He was there while being scourged and when He carried His cross for us?

What about a pregnant mother and her unborn baby? Can we see that Jesus is there in that mother's womb in the same way He was in Mary's womb as a living, tiny baby who was unplanned and the source of unimaginable joy but also hardship and difficulty?

What about a grumpy coworker or neighbor who irritates and annoys us? Can we look past the irritation and see God somewhere within their hearts? Just as God filled the hearts of the good thief on the cross and the Roman centurion who recognized that "Truly this man was the Son of God", can we see even a little bit of God within those around us?

What about ourselves? When we become depressed and feel worthless, can we see that Jesus is with us, wanting to help us carry our own crosses if we just open our hearts to His Love for us? Can we acknowledge that if God lives within us, then we



cannot possibly be as hopeless as we thought. When we open our hearts to God's love and feel Jesus helping us carry our own crosses, can we feel God's forgiveness for the ways we feel we have failed? Once we have forgiven ourselves, can we be merciful to others as well and maybe also help them carry their crosses?

Let's close our eyes. Breathe. Now, open our minds and hearts to truly see the presence of God in our world this day. Enjoy the beauty of the world God has made just for us and see Him in every part of our lives. Then,

look more deeply and recognize His very real presence not only in the Holy Eucharist but also in each and every person around us. How can we bring the miracle of God's presence out the doors of the church and distribute His Love to each person we meet? How will our actions reflect the image of Christ to those in need? Can we make others realize that they are God's greatest miracles and are deserving of His love? Can others recognize God living within us?

Not "Can we" but "Will we" reflect God's loving care in our world today?

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS



Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

In recent years, a number of US states have legalized a new way to process human corpses that some have called "dissolving the dead." Its technical name is "alkaline hydrolysis," but it is also known as biocremation, aquamation, green cremation, resomation, and human composting.

The basic process involves placing a body in a heated, pressurized metal chamber and hastening its decomposition by adding lye (water mixed with a small quantity of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide) to break down proteins, fats, DNA, etc. This rapidly digests the tissues of the body and reduces it to skeletal fragments. The procedure, which some claim is merely an accelerated version of what happens if you're buried, requires 3 to 4 hours.

Afterwards, the dissolved tissue, a brown soup comprised

of simple organic materials like salts, sugars and lipids is released from the machine into a drain, then into the sewer system before it makes its way to water treatment facilities. The leftover bone fragments inside the machine are collected, ground up and, as in standard cremation, pulverized into a powder (colloquially and imprecisely termed "ashes"), which can be given to the family in an urn.

Many instinctively object that dissolving bodies in a vat of chemicals and pouring the resultant liquid down the drain is not a respectful way to dispose of our loved ones' remains, because it seems to treat their bodies as waste to be flushed away.

Others note that standard embalming involves similar steps, as the drained blood and viscera that are extracted through the aspiration of the body cavities are also sent down the drain. The idea of flame cremation, they add, raises parallel concerns, as numerous parts of a person's body are degraded and flare up a pipe or chimney into the atmosphere.

As a society we have laws prohibiting desecration of the human body, illegal burial, and other abuses against the human body, and we can ask whether human

composting or liquification of the human body raises any of the same concerns and whether the process meets the standard of reverent treatment of our earthly remains.

Because of the novelty of alkaline hydrolysis, the Catholic Church does not yet have an official teaching that addresses the practice. Instead, the Church stresses the importance of showing careful regard for human remains and honoring the memory of the deceased. These considerations should influence our decisions as Catholics when we are offered options like cremation or alkaline hydrolysis. Neither is intrinsically evil, but each can lead to abuses and provoke misunderstandings about our human nature. In an age in which many misidentify the human person as only corresponding to the soul, without recognizing the sacredness of the human body, the Church tries to emphasize the importance of full-body burial as the best way to assure loving homage towards those who have died as well as witnessing to our belief in bodily Resurrection.

Both cremation and alkaline hydrolysis, meanwhile, bring with them the potential for irreverence and a certain casualness when it comes to attending to

human remains.

After cremation, rather than being reverently disposed, ashes are often kept in the attic or in the living room on the fireplace mantel, something that would never be done with a whole human body. Instead of being reverently reserved in the consecrated ground of a cemetery, our loved one's remains may be subjected to unbefitting or even superstitious treatment. At a deeper level, do we minimize or even negate someone's embodied human reality when we dissolve them in lye, or incinerate them in fire?

On the other hand, when the whole body is buried in the ground, there is a greater sense of connection to those mortal remains, which speak to us of the full embodiment of the person who once lived and breathed as we do, body and soul.

These notable differences in terms of according respect towards the deceased means that we should generally prefer whole body disposition of human remains, as the Church recommends, even though extenuating circumstances can allow for cremation and, until the Church formally teaches otherwise, alkaline hydrolysis. I believe it is unlikely the Church will ultimately

counsel or encourage the use of this latter method for laying our loved ones to rest after death.

When alkaline hydrolysis is carried out, the same basic principles that are at work in cremation to protect human dignity should be applied. Bone fragments, powder and ashes left over from the process should be placed in a suitable container like an urn, and not scattered or divided among family members. The urn should be interred in the family plot, a mausoleum, or a columbarium. This establishes a specific point of reference in time, space and geography where we can commemorate our deceased family members. In this way, we are not only invited to respect their mortal remains, but also to pray for the repose of their souls as we mourn their passing in the hope of Resurrection and beatitude.

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.ncbicenter.org and www.father tad.com.

Un Buen Comienzo De Año



Padre Wilson Cuevas

Cuando empezamos un nuevo año, en algún momento todos nos preguntamos cómo cambiar las cosas que no nos gustan o los recuerdos que nos hacen daño y la respuesta es simple y muy importante, decídate cambiar ahora, no esperes a la semana entrante para hacerlo. Siempre hay una ocasión para transformarnos. El momento es ahora. Cada respiro es una nueva oportunidad, cada mañana es un nuevo comienzo. No tiene que pensar que el pasado es algo que se tiene que repetir como un ciclo sin fin. Todo depende de las elecciones y decisiones que tomes en cada momento. Se trata de hacer esto una práctica, hasta convertirlo en parte de tú vida.

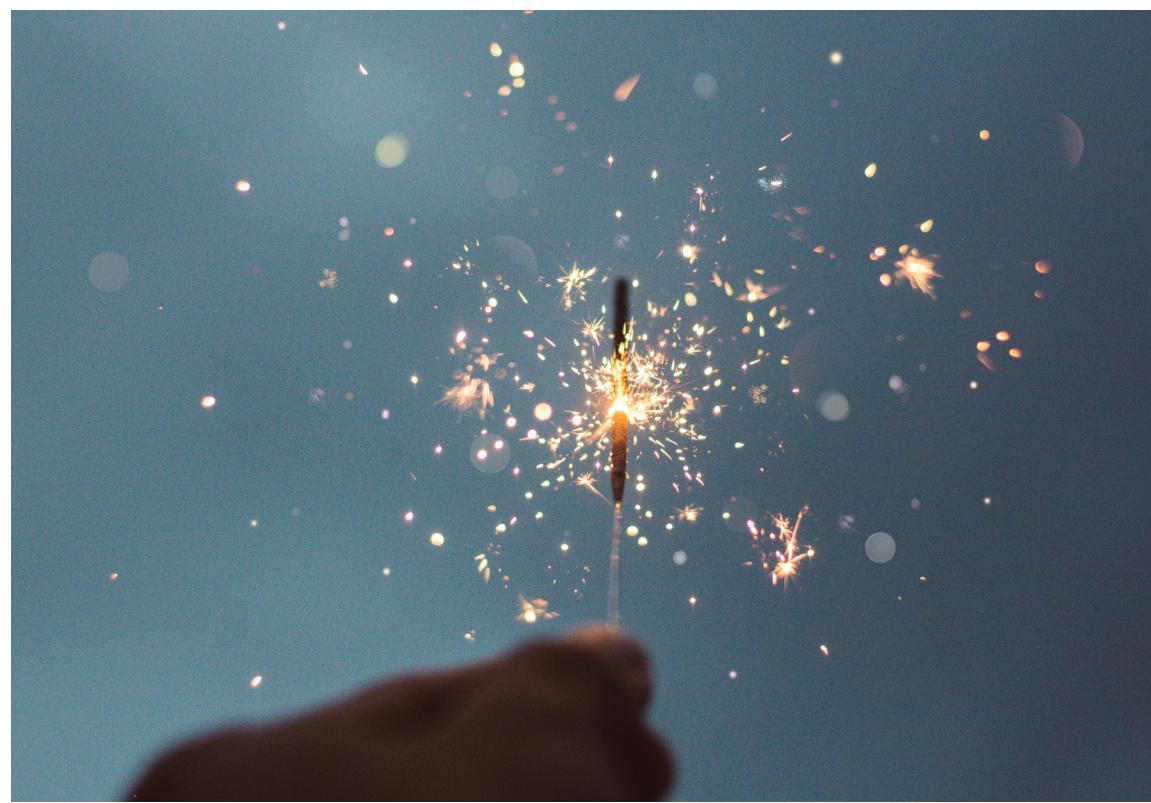
Lo que sabemos, es el producto de lo que aprendemos. Y aprendemos estudiando o viajando. Allí está el conocimiento y ahí permanece para que cualquier persona lo aborde y lo explore. Y como el gran escritor Borges, un buen libro es el mejor amigo, en amigo que te acompaña donde vayas, a todas horas... Por eso la "lectura tiene que convertirse en un hábito que, si se adquiere desde edad temprana, mucho más arraigo tendrá en el individuo". Esta época suele ser propicia para la lectura y muchos columnistas elaboran sus artículos con recomendaciones sobre los libros que más se están leyendo y comparte experiencia de conocimiento que a muchos puede interesar y atraer. Por eso quiero invitarlos

a que una manera de dar buen comienzo al año es elegir un buen libro, visitar una librería o pedir recomendación a un amigo que sabemos que le gusta leer libros. Si nos sentimos atraídos a abordar lecturas, de esta manera el conocimiento fluye y se irradia a todos los espacios posibles.

Por este motivo es que en el año que comenzamos debemos pensar que cada persona pueda incrementar su círculo de amigos, intercambiar libros y conversaciones en las que se tenga la oportunidad de compartir las cosas que aprendimos en las lecturas de los libros que estamos leyendo. Leer nos enriquece el pensamiento y las conversaciones no resultan tan sútiles y vacías. Hay personas con las que nos da gusto conversar porque siempre que los escuchamos salimos enriquecidos con nuevos conocimientos de la sabiduría de lo que han perdido en sus frecuentes lecturas.

Entendemos que a muchos les asiste la excusa de la falta de tiempo, pero hoy tenemos las bibliotecas y librerías virtuales en donde desde el computador o desde el mismo celular, se pueden bajar o comprar libros que de inmediato se descargan en sus depósitos, en donde además podemos consultar que tanto han sido leídos o que comentarios hay al respecto de sus contenidos.

Leer es un buen ejercicio para nuestra mente y pensamiento, tan saludable que equivale a aeróbicos para agilizar nuestras neuronas" para mantenerlas activas, vitales y con energía. El hábito de leer nos ayuda a evitar el Alzheimer, además es una fuente de inspiración, de allí que cuando se pregunta a los emprendedores y a los mismos científicos, en la forma en que



hallaron sus descubrimientos, casi siempre responde, que fue a través de alguna lectura, que supo iluminarles la creatividad e inducirlos a la creación.

Además el que lee aprende a utilizar el idioma, a expresarse mejor y a lograr una comunicación más fluida y apropiada a lo que quiere transmitir y hacer. Traigo a colación la expresión de un intelectual amigo que decía es lamentable contemplar a muchas personas, incluidas profesionales, que tienen dificultad para redactar una nota". Leer nos da agilidad de pensamiento y habilidad para hablar y conversar con sustancia.

Hay personas que no son muy conocidas pero son la sal de la tierra. Déjenme que les cuente una historia preciosa que viene de Perú, de ese maravilloso Perú ahora hundido en un torbellino

de dolor y de violencia, es un país de 33 millones de habitantes, más de la mitad viven en Lima la capital, el resto están diseminado por la geografía en general durísima, a menudo soportando unas condiciones de vida muy precaria. A ese mundo estoico, sacrificado y persistente, pertenece haber Ocaña, que había estudiado Literatura en los ochenta, en 1999 creó una biblioteca pública en su propia casa con los libros que tenía. Después emigró a España. Mientras trabaja como jardinero en Torrejon de Ardoz, vio los bibliobús madrileños y al regresar a Perú en el 2009 cogió la moto taxi que tenía su hijo y la convirtió en una bibliomoto para llevar las lecturas a zonas remotas durante el fin de semana, porque el resto del tiempo tienen que trabajar, además no pueden salir todos los

días por los gastos de gasolina. Los libros eran gratis, venían de donaciones, de editoriales y de amigos. El plan se centraba en fomentar la lectura entre los niños. La familia de haber en pleno ha estado gestionando este proyecto con sus esfuerzos y sin ayudas oficiales. Son cosas y casos admirables, esa sí que es una buena manera de comenzar el año. Todas las familias tienen un centro, una persona que convoca a veces sin necesidad de hacerlo. Todo gira alrededor de ella, un paseo, una fiesta, una conversación, una reunión, se decide por su presencia. Si, los miserables y los corruptos existen pero también hay mucha personas maravillosas como muestra esta historia, ideal para inspirarnos a hacer algo bueno que ayude a transformar la vida de muchas personas.

A Good Start To The Year

When we start a new year, at some point we all ask ourselves how to change the things we don't like or the memories that hurt us and the answer is simple and very important, decide to change now, don't wait until next week to do it. There is always a chance to transform ourselves. The time is now. Every breath is a new opportunity, every morning is a new beginning. You don't have to think that the past is something that has to be repeated like an endless cycle. It all depends on the choices and decisions you make in each moment. It is about making this a practice, until it becomes part of your life.

What we know is the product of what we learn. And we learn by studying or traveling. That is where the knowledge is and there it remains for anyone to approach and explore. And like the great writer Borges, a good book is the best friend, a friend that accompanies you wherever you go, at all times... That is why reading has to become a habit that, if acquired from an early age, will be much more deeply rooted in

the individual". This season is usually propitious for reading and many columnists elaborate their articles with recommendations about the books that are being read the most and share experiences of knowledge that may interest and attract many. That is why I would like to invite you that one way to give a good start to the year is to choose a good book, visit a bookstore or ask for a recommendation from a friend who we know likes to read books. If we feel attracted to approach readings, in this way knowledge flows and radiates to all possible spaces.

For this reason, in the year we are starting we should think that each person can increase their circle of friends, exchange books and conversations in which we have the opportunity to share the things we learned from the books we are reading. Reading enriches our thinking and conversations are not so subtle and empty. There are people with whom we are happy to talk because whenever we listen to them we come away enriched with new knowledge of the wisdom of what

they have lost in their frequent readings.

We understand that many have the excuse of lack of time, but today we have libraries and virtual bookstores where from the computer or from the same cell phone, you can download or buy books that are immediately downloaded in their deposits, where we can also check how much they have been read or what comments there are about their contents.

Reading is a good exercise for our mind and thinking, so healthy that it is equivalent to aerobics to speed up our neurons to keep them active, vital and energetic. The habit of reading helps us to avoid Alzheimer's, it is also a source of inspiration, hence when entrepreneurs and scientists themselves are asked how they found their discoveries, they almost always answer that it was through some reading, which was able to enlighten their creativity and induce them to creation.

In addition, those who read learn to use the language, to express themselves better and

to achieve a more fluid and appropriate communication to what they want to transmit and do. I bring up the expression of an intellectual friend who said that it is regrettable to see many people, including professionals, who have difficulty writing a note. Reading gives us agility of thought and ability to speak and converse with substance.

There are people who are not well known but are the salt of the earth. Let me tell you a beautiful story that comes from Peru, from that wonderful Peru now plunged in a whirlwind of pain and violence, is a country of 33 million inhabitants, more than half live in Lima the capital, the rest are scattered throughout the geography in general very hard, often enduring very precarious living conditions. To this stoic, self-sacrificing and persistent world, belongs haber Ocaña, who had studied Literature in the eighties, in 1999 he created a public library in his own house with the books he had. Then he emigrated to Spain. While working as a gardener in Torrejon de Ardoz, he saw the bibliobuses in Madrid

and when he returned to Peru in 2009 he took the motorcycle cab that his son had and converted it into a bibliomoto to take the books to remote areas during the weekend, because the rest of the time they have to work, besides they cannot leave every day because of the gasoline costs. The books were free, they came from donations, publishers and friends. The plan was focused on promoting reading among the children. The entire haber family has been managing this project with their own efforts and without official help. These are admirable things and cases, that is a good way to start the year. All the families have a center, a person who convenes sometimes without the need to do so. Everything revolves around her, a walk, a party, a conversation, a meeting, is decided by her presence. Yes, the miserable and the corrupt exist but there are also many wonderful people as this story shows, ideal to inspire us to do something good to help transform the lives of many people.

A Labor Of Love - Speak Lord, Your Servant Is Listening

By Tina Edwards-Milam,
Annual Appeal Director

As we enter February, we celebrate Valentine's Day and enter into the season of Lent. How fitting the two go hand-in-hand.

February is the month we celebrate love. We share gifts to express our love for each other. How often do we ever really take the time to sit and think about the tremendous gift, the most significant Sacrifice, and the greatest Love of all?

Jesus came to live and die so that we may have life and be reunited with Him for eternity. We must embrace the purpose for

which He has created us—sharing the gift of this nourishing love with our family of faith.

As I sit and write, no matter how much I stress and pick my brain about the best way to share His message, I realize, He has already done all the heavy lifting. My message could never even begin to compare to His Grace. All I can do is sit back and let Jesus take the wheel.

Nowadays, I seem to find myself saying that more often than not. Speak, Lord; your servant is listening.

We all have a story to tell. Sure, sometimes, some things may not have worked out in

our favor, and there have been disappointments. But all of these challenges have helped guide you in a direction that was meant for you. Your life has purpose and significance.

Each of us is called to bring Jesus into the world. To take Him to others. To announce Him. To sacrifice for Him. To surrender for Him. To love others for Him.

As Catholics, we believe in the actual presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We know that this is the ultimate Sacrifice of Love for us, that Jesus would lay down His life for us. Jesus left us the greatest gift of all when He left us the Eucharist. The Eucharist is

the true sustenance for our lives.

Bishop Mark says, "What an incredible gift we have in the Eucharist. This gift cannot be kept to ourselves. We must go forth and share the Good News of the Eucharist, the true source of our lives, with everyone we encounter."

Our Lord said, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few." We hear this all the time. But do you recall what He said directly after those words? "...So ask the harvest master to send more workers." Speak, Lord; your servant is listening.

By supporting the needs of today, we will carry on the rich

heritage of those who came before us. When we give back by supporting our ministries through the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal, we continue ensuring the future of our faith and spreading the Good News of the Gospel.

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

Una Obra De Amor - "Habla Señor, que tu siervo escucha"

By Tina Edwards-Milam,
Directora de Campana Anual

Al entrar en febrero, celebramos el Día de San Valentín y entramos en la temporada de Cuaresma. Lo apropiado que son los dos van de la mano.

Febrero es el mes en que celebramos el amor. Compartimos dones para expresar nuestro amor mutuo. ¿Con qué frecuencia realmente nos tomamos el tiempo para sentarnos y pensar en el tremendo regalo, el sacrificio más significativo y el mayor de todos?

Jesús vino a vivir y morir para que podamos tener vida y reunirnos con Él por la eternidad. Debemos abrazar el propósito

para el cual Él nos ha creado: compartir el don de este amor nutritivo con nuestra familia de fe.

Mientras me siento y escribo, no importa cuánto estrese y escoja mi cerebro sobre la mejor manera de compartir Su mensaje, me doy cuenta de que Él ya ha hecho todo el trabajo pesado. Mi mensaje nunca podría siquiera comenzar a compararse con Su Gracia. Todo lo que puedo hacer es sentarme y dejar que Jesús tome el volante.

Hoy en día, parece que me encuentro diciendo eso la mayoría de las veces. Habla, Señor; Tu siervo está escuchando.

Todos tenemos una historia que contar. Claro, a veces,

algunas cosas pueden no haber funcionado a nuestro favor, y ha habido decepciones. Pero todos estos desafíos te han ayudado a guiarte en una dirección que estaba destinada para ti. Tu vida tiene propósito y significado.

Cada uno de nosotros está llamado a traer a Jesús al mundo. Para llevarlo a los demás. Para anunciarlo. Para sacrificarse por Él. Rendirse por Él. Amar a los demás por Él.

Como católicos, creemos en la presencia real de Jesús en la Eucaristía. Sabemos que este es el último Sacrificio de Amor por nosotros, que Jesús daría Su vida por nosotros. Jesús nos dejó el regalo más grande de todos cuando nos dejó la Eucaristía. La

Eucaristía es el verdadero sustento de nuestras vidas.

El Obispo Mark dice: "Qué don tan increíble tenemos en la Eucaristía. Este regalo no puede ser guardado para nosotros mismos. Debemos salir y compartir la Buena Nueva de la Eucaristía, la verdadera fuente de nuestras vidas, con todos los que encontramos".

Nuestro Señor dijo: "La mies es grande, pero los obreros son pocos". Escuchamos esto todo el tiempo. Pero, ¿recuerdas lo que dijo directamente después de esas palabras? "... Así que pídele al maestro de la cosecha que envíe más trabajadores". Habla, Señor; Tu siervo está escuchando.

Al apoyar las necesidades de hoy, continuaremos con la rica herencia de aquellos que vinieron antes que nosotros. Cuando retribuimos apoyando nuestros ministerios a través de Progreso: Campana Católica de los Ministerios, continuamos asegurando el futuro de nuestra fe y difundiendo las Buenas Nuevas del Evangelio.

Por favor, ayúdenos a apoyar a los más necesitados a través del arduo trabajo y la dedicación de nuestros ministerios. Por favor, oren y, si aún no lo han hecho, disciernan en oración haciendo un regalo sacrificial en amor al Progreso: Llamamiento del Ministerio Católico hoy. Visita www.2023progress-cma.org

Social Media and Catechesis, Wait, What?

By Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

Nowadays, where the majority of the El Paso population has a social media account and are exposed to unlimited data, why not offer a small catechesis in the middle of the day for individuals to learn about the meaning of the Eucharist? The Stewardship office of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso, started to offer catechesis on social media in mid-January; to teach the true meaning of the Eucharist and what benefits we receive when we attend Mass every Sunday.

These efforts were inspired by the USCCB'S Eucharist revival, "The bishops of the United States are calling for all dioceses to begin a three-year plan to revive and foster Eucharist devotion in dioceses, parishes and the hearts of the faithful." – Ave Maria Press. "The National Eucharist Revival is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the entire Catholic Church in the U.S. to this divine invitation."

Many efforts are inviting everyone to the Eucharist, but theologian Tim O' Malley suggests that: "You don't need to wait, according to Benedict XVI, for an official conference on the Eucharist in your diocese or for a

structural change in the chancery to preach the Good News to the ends of the earth. You and I can start the change now by becoming someone who reflects this mystery of love in your neighborhood."

According to the recent Mass Attendance Count in the Diocese of El Paso, 8,000 individuals view Mass on local television channels in English and Spanish, and 5,000 individuals view Mass via social media. Although these statistics do not reflect how many individuals are viewing Mass per household, according to KVIA television station, viewership can be calculated to represent approximately 2 to 3 viewers per household. This means more than approximately 20,000 Catholics are missing the opportunity to receive the Eucharist and attend a life of ministry.

The Catholic Foundation hopes that a proper one-second catechesis in social media will inspire viewers to reflect on the importance of the Eucharist and learn the true meaning and hopefully return to a life of intimacy with God. "All it takes is a deeper appreciation of the gift of love that you receive in every Mass, all it takes is pausing for a moment before a tabernacle, giving thanks that God loves you enough to be so close to you. All

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it takes is letting that worship shape how you live as a Christian in the public sphere, witnessing to the gratuity of the god who is love, who loves us unto the end." Tim O' Malley says in the Eucharist Revival website. For more information about the

Eucharist Revival visit: www.eucharistrevival.org.

The Stewardship office invites you to follow the Catholic Foundation's social media and learn about the true meaning of the Eucharist and the benefits of receiving the Eucharist every Sun-

day in Mass, and share the love of God in your life. For more information about the efforts to promote catechesis on social media, please contact Karina Sandoval Enriquez at ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org or at 915-872-8412.

The Catholic Foundation Welcomes a New Major Gifts Officer

By Staff Report
Catholic Foundation

The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso proudly announces Tony Herrera Jr. as its new Major Gifts Officer.

Tony comes to the Catholic Foundation with 20+ years of sales, management, fundraising, client engagement and service experience. A native of El Paso, Tony graduated with a B.S. in Business from the University of Texas at El Paso. He is a parishioner of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini parish, is a Third-Degree Knight of Columbus, and is involved in ACTS, Parents Helping Parents, and Adoración Noctur-



na. He is happily married to his wife, Gabby and they have two sons, Emiliano and Diego.

Tony is absorbing all there is to learn about the Catholic Foundation, the Diocese of El Paso, and his new role. He is excited to begin the process of connecting with longtime donors, as well as building new relationships along the way. "I'm looking forward to getting to know these donors personally," he said. "I want to know what is important to them in their faith and church life, and what they are passionate about and making those new connections. I'm excited to get the process started."

The Major Gifts Officer is responsible for growing the Catholic Foundation's endowment program known as the Catholic

Legacy Fund and the activities of the Planned Giving Program as well as stewarding and educating current and prospective donors on ways they can give back to God and support the long-term needs of the parishes, schools, ministries and charities in the Diocese of El Paso.

"We are pleased to have Tony join our team," Linda Caro, Chief Operating Officer of the Catholic Foundation, said. "Tony comes to us with an extensive background in building lifelong relationships, working closely with people as a trusted advisor, he's committed to delivering outstanding results, and is a devout Catholic with a true passion for

the Church, and its works. We look forward to watching Tony as he continues to build and expand the accomplishments of the Catholic Legacy Fund and the Planned Giving programs at the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso."

To find out more information about how Tony can help you build a legacy for your parish, your favorite ministry, Catholic school or charity, please contact him at (915) 479-9100 or at thererra@catholicfoundationelpaso.org.

La Fundación Católica da la bienvenida a un nuevo Oficial de Mayores Donativos

Por Informe del personal
Fundación Católica

La Fundación Católica para la Diócesis de El Paso se enorgullece en anunciar a Tony Herrera Jr. como su nuevo Oficial de Donaciones Mayores.

Tony llega a la Fundación Católica con más de 20 años de experiencia en ventas, administración, recaudación de fondos, compromiso con el cliente y servicio. Originario de El Paso, Tony se graduó con una licenciatura en Negocios de la Universidad de Texas en El Paso. Es feligrés de la parroquia de Santa

Francisca Javier Cabrini, Caballero de Colón en tercer grado y participa en ACTS, Padres que ayudan a padres y Adoración Nocturna. Está felizmente casado con su esposa, Gabby, y tienen dos hijos, Emiliano y Diego.

Tony está absorbiendo todo lo que hay que aprender acerca de la Fundación Católica, la Diócesis de El Paso, y su nuevo papel. Está emocionado de comenzar el proceso de conectarse con los donantes desde hace mucho tiempo, así como la construcción de nuevas relaciones en el camino. "Estoy deseando conocer personalmente a estos donantes",

dijo. "Quiero saber qué es importante para ellos en su fe y en su vida eclesiástica, qué les apasiona y establecer esas nuevas conexiones. Estoy emocionado por comenzar el proceso".

El Oficial de Donaciones Mayores es responsable de hacer crecer el programa de dotación de la Fundación Católica conocido como el Fondo del Legado Católico y las actividades del Programa de Donaciones Planificadas, así como de administrar y educar a los donantes actuales y potenciales sobre las formas en que pueden devolver a Dios y apoyar las necesidades a largo

plazo de las parroquias, escuelas, ministerios y organizaciones benéficas de la Diócesis de El Paso.

"Estamos encantados de que Tony se une a nuestro equipo", dijo Linda Caro, Directora de Operaciones de la Fundación Católica. "Tony llega a nosotros con una amplia experiencia en la construcción de relaciones de toda la vida, trabajando estrechamente con la gente como un asesor de confianza, está comprometido a ofrecer resultados sobresalientes, y es un devoto católico con una verdadera pasión por la Iglesia, y sus obras.

Esperamos ver a Tony mientras continúa construyendo y expandiendo los logros del Fondo de Legado Católico y los programas de Donaciones Planificadas en la Fundación Católica para la Diócesis de El Paso."

Para obtener más información sobre cómo Tony puede ayudarle a construir un legado para su parroquia, su ministerio favorito, escuela católica u organización benéfica, póngase en contacto con él en el (915) 479-9100 o en thererra@catholicfoundationelpaso.org.

Special Collections

Collection for the Black and Indian Missions

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, February 4, and Sunday, February 5, 2023, for the Black and Indian Mission. The Catholic Church has conducted this appeal every year since 1884.

The funds from this collection help dioceses in mission work with Black and Indian communities by supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which otherwise would not be able to exist. A portion of the funds collected each year is returned to the Diocese of El Paso in the form of a grant for the Tigua Native American Ministry.

On the weekend of February 4, and Sunday, February 5, 2023, please take the opportunity to contribute to the Black and Indian Mission Appeal, a portion of your donation will be returned to our Diocese. Thank you for your support.

Colecta para las Misiones en las Comunidades para Personas de Color e Indígenas

El sábado 4 y el domingo 5 de febrero del 2023, se llevará a cabo una colecta especial para las Misiones en Comunidades para Personas de Color e Indígenas. La Iglesia Católica ha seguido a este llamado todos los años, desde 1884.

Los fondos de esta colección ayudan a las diócesis en el trabajo misionero con las comunidades de personas de color e indígenas, al apoyar y fortalecer los programas de evangelización que de otro modo no podrían existir. Una parte de los fondos recaudados cada año se devuelve a la Diócesis de El Paso en forma de subvención para el Ministerio Nativo Americano Tigua.

El fin de semana del 4 y 5 de febrero del 2023, aproveche la oportunidad para contribuir a la Campaña para las Misiones en Comunidades para Personas de Color e Indígenas ya que una porción de su donación será devuelta a nuestra Diócesis. Gracias por su apoyo.

Collection for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe

There will be a Special Offering on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 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 miércoles 22 de febrero 2023, para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental.

La Iglesia en esta parte del mundo ha estado reedificando la fe de su gente y restaurando 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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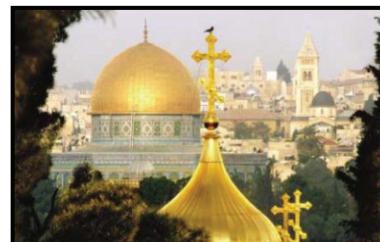
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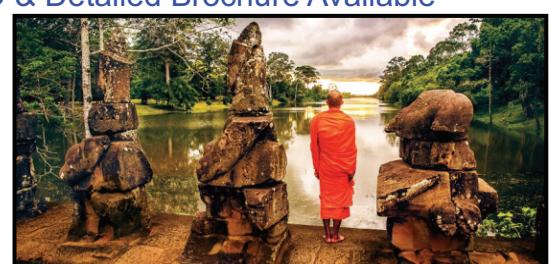
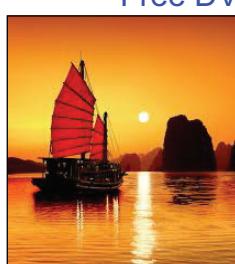
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