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# THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

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July 2023

## Bishop Seitz Celebrates 10 Years As El Paso Bishop



Photo by Fr. Miguel Briseño, OFM

## GUEST COLUMN - FERNIE CENICEROS

## Thank You, Bishop Seitz!

In June 2019, I was approached by Bishop Seitz to accompany him to Juarez later in the week to help with press and photos for an event he would have. He informed me that he would attempt to assist a migrant refugee family in claiming asylum. The family he was going to assist had been through a fairly difficult time after traveling thousands of miles fleeing from their home, like most migrant refugees we have seen in recent years.

Of course, I was very much up to the assignment, especially after hearing the migrant family's harrowing story of death in their family and the need for medical assistance for one of the children. The attention we were about to receive was going to be high, so it quickly became apparent to me that I would need to assist in appropriate communication with media outlets.

When the Bishop asks for your help with something or assigns you to help with an event, one usually doesn't think about any



Fernie Cenicerros

particular difficulties that may arise with what he has just asked. In this case, I didn't think about walking outside for 2 or 3 hours in the middle of June. The heat never crossed my mind, at least not until that day.

It was a Thursday afternoon around 1 pm, and from what I can recall, it was around 98 to 99 degrees outside. Our task was to briefly meet with the press on the American side of the border, walk

over the international port of entry, meet with any Mexican media, and meet the family. Then walk two blocks over to the Stanton International Bridge and cross back to the United States; that seemed easy enough to me, except its 99 degrees in El Paso/Juarez and not a single cloud in sight.

With my camera in hand, I am ready to walk over, and to my surprise, there is Bishop Seitz in his dress episcopal cassock, *facia* or sash, and his *zucchetto* or skull cap. Let me take this opportunity to mention that the episcopal cassock is made from wool. Even though it's light wool, it was 99 degrees that day; I can assure you that it was scorching that day. Once he got to where I was standing, he looked over at us on his detail, and with a calm face, he said, "Let's go!"

From that moment until almost 5:00 pm, there was no stopping Bishop Seitz; it was a sight to see. Without any complaint about the heat or the number of people surrounding us, Bishop Seitz's task

was what was directly in front of him; bringing attention not only to this family's need but to call attention to all migrants and their plight as refugees. Upon crossing the bridge, Bishop Seitz met with the family, and then began walking.

When I was a seminarian at St. Charles, the seminary's motto was a Latin phrase that I have taken to heart, *Jesus Vita Nostra, Jesus Exemplar Nostra*, meaning Jesus our life, Jesus our example. That day in 2019, I saw that motto in motion. Bishop Seitz's demeanor was calm, and he did what any pastor would do; he did everything in his power to ensure that the children were not scared. Calmly he held the hand of the 9-year-old girl in the family, bought her a cold drink to help with the heat, and marched on up the bridge.

All around us was chaos, cameras and reporters everywhere, yet at the center was peace and calm. Bishop Seitz lived his motto that day, *Paratum Cor Meum, My Heart is Ready*. His face was determined to ensure this family

got what they needed. Even when tensions rose at the bridge's summit between the lawyers, reporters, and customs agents, Bishop Seitz was peaceful and calm. He was exactly what those children and that family needed.

Eventually, Bishop Seitz was heard, and after a couple of days of back and forth, the family was granted asylum. In the final analysis, that day, I learned who my boss was, a man with deep faith in Jesus. A simple man with flaws, he'll be the first to admit it. But what I saw that day was nothing short of the work of God. I witnessed faith in action, faith in Jesus, who teaches us that he is present wherever suffering exists. His teachings were fully displayed that day, and I am honored to have been a small part of it.

With that, let me take this opportunity to thank Bishop Seitz for his ten years of service to this community I call home. We are blessed to have him as our leader. Thank you, Bishop Seitz, *adelante!*

## Gracias Señor Obispo

En junio de 2019, el Obispo Seitz se me acercó para que lo acompañara a Juárez más adelante en la semana para ayudar con la prensa y las fotos para un evento que tendría. Me informó que intentaría ayudar a una familia de refugiados migrantes a solicitar asilo. La familia a la que iba a ayudar había pasado por momentos bastante difíciles tras recorrer miles de kilómetros huyendo de su hogar, como la mayoría de los refugiados migrantes que hemos visto en los últimos años.

Por supuesto, me apetecía mucho el encargo, sobre todo después de escuchar la desgarradora historia de la familia migrante, que había muerto en su seno y necesitaba asistencia médica para uno de los niños. La atención que íbamos a recibir iba a ser grande, por lo que rápidamente me di cuenta de que tendría que ayudar en la comunicación adecuada con los medios de comunicación y las partes interesadas.

Cuando el Obispo te pide ayuda

para algo o te asigna la colaboración en un acontecimiento, uno no suele pensar en las dificultades particulares que puede plantear lo que acaba de pedir. En este caso, no pensé en caminar al aire libre durante 2 o 3 horas en pleno mes de junio. El calor nunca se me pasó por la cabeza, al menos hasta ese día.

Era un jueves por la tarde, a eso de las 13.00 horas, y por lo que recuerdo, en el exterior hacía entre 40 y 40 grados. Nuestra tarea consistía en reunirnos brevemente con la prensa en el lado estadounidense de la frontera, pasar por el puerto de entrada internacional, reunirnos con los medios de comunicación mexicanos y conocer a la familia. A continuación, caminar dos manzanas hasta el puente internacional Stanton y cruzar de nuevo a Estados Unidos; eso me parecía bastante fácil, excepto que en El Paso/Juárez hace 99 grados y no hay ni una sola nube a la vista.

Con mi cámara en mano, me dispongo a caminar y, para mi

sorprea, ahí está el obispo Seitz con su sotana episcopal, su *facia* o faja y su *zucchetto* o casquete. Permítanme aprovechar esta oportunidad para mencionar que la sotana episcopal es de lana. Aunque es de lana ligera, ese día hacía 99 grados; puedo asegurarles que ese día hacía un calor abrasador. Una vez llegó a donde yo estaba, nos miró con su detalle y, con cara tranquila, dijo: "¡Vamos!"

Desde ese momento hasta casi las cinco de la tarde, no hubo quien parara al obispo Seitz; era un espectáculo digno de verse. Sin quejarse del calor ni de la cantidad de gente que nos rodeaba, la tarea del obispo Seitz era la que tenía delante: llamar la atención no solo sobre la necesidad de esta familia, sino sobre todos los migrantes y su difícil situación como refugiados. Al cruzar el puente, el obispo Seitz se reunió con la familia, respondió a algunas preguntas de la prensa, leyó una breve declaración y luego comenzó a caminar.

Cuando era seminarista en San

Carlos, el lema del seminario era una frase en latín que me he tomado muy a pecho, *Jesus Vita Nostre, Jesus Exemplar Nostre*, que significa Jesús nuestra vida, Jesús nuestro ejemplo. Ese día de 2019, vi ese lema en movimiento. El comportamiento del obispo Seitz era tranquilo, e hizo lo que haría cualquier pastor; hizo todo lo que estaba en su mano para que los niños no tuvieran miedo. Con calma, cogió de la mano a la niña de 9 años de la familia, le compró una bebida fría para aliviar el calor, y siguió su camino por el puente.

A nuestro alrededor había caos, cámaras y periodistas por todas partes, pero en el centro reinaba la paz y la calma. El obispo Seitz vivió aquel día su lema, *Paratum Cor Meum, Mi corazón está preparado*. Su rostro estaba decidido a garantizar que esta familia recibiera lo que necesitaba. Incluso cuando las tensiones aumentaron en la cumbre del puente entre los abogados, los periodistas y los agentes de aduanas, Mons. Seitz

se mostró pacífico y tranquilo. Era exactamente lo que esos niños y esa familia necesitaban.

Finalmente, el obispo Seitz fue escuchado y, tras un par de días de idas y venidas, se concedió asilo a la familia. A fin de cuentas, aquel día aprendí quién era mi jefe, un hombre con una profunda fe en Jesús. Un hombre sencillo con defectos, él será el primero en admitirlo. Pero lo que vi ese día fue nada menos que la obra de Dios. Fui testigo de la fe en acción, la fe en Jesús, que nos enseña que Él está presente allí donde existe el sufrimiento. Sus enseñanzas se manifestaron plenamente aquel día, y me siento honrado de haber sido una pequeña parte de ello.

Con esto, permítanme aprovechar esta oportunidad para dar las gracias al Obispo Seitz por sus diez años de servicio a esta comunidad a la que llamo hogar. Tenemos la bendición de tenerlo como nuestro líder. Gracias, Obispo Seitz, *adelante!*

## THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

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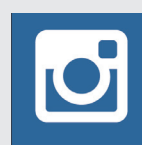
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## INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH

## Ten and Counting!

They say that time flies when you are having fun! Well I have to confess that I have been having the time of my life since I arrived here in the El Paso Diocese. Not that it has been all play time, but I just cannot imagine a more fulfilling, rewarding, challenging, joyful experience than these last 10 years have brought. You have probably heard that I had never been to El Paso until I came here from Dallas to be announced as the newly named Bishop of this Diocese. For me it was quite a surprise when the Apostolic Nuncio, the Pope's representative in the United States, called me one Saturday morning in the Spring of 2013 to inform me that the newly elected Pope, Pope Francis, had named me your Bishop. My call to West Texas was certainly unexpected, I certainly had doubts about my abilities to serve you well, but I also had a sense that the Lord's hand was involved.

When I was first called to be an Auxiliary Bishop for my adopted Diocese of Dallas I was told that I needed to choose a motto. The motto I chose expressed what was on my heart well. It is a line taken from the Psalms: "Paratum Cor Meum" "My heart is ready." Throughout my life I have been learning that God's plans have always been much more creative and fulfilling than mine. I was finally learning that I didn't need to live under the illusion that I had to be completely in charge. I could do my part and then enjoy the ride.

And what a ride it has been here! I'll never forget the joyful, affirming reception I received on the day of the announcement on May 6th and the excitement at the Convention Center on July 9th for my installation. It was overwhelming to think that you loved me even before you knew me. I wanted to live up to that love and not disappoint you. A highlight will always be the

visit of Pope Francis to our borderland in February of 2016. The bishops of the 3 borderland dioceses, Ciudad Juárez, Las Cruces and El Paso had sent letters to the Pope inviting him to visit our region when we learned he was coming to Mexico. I suggested he might want to come to our area to call attention to the journey of so many people on the move do in their search for a place of security and peace. What a day that was!

Of course, one of the toughest days was August 3rd, 2019 when so many of our innocent brothers and sisters were slain or injured in the racially motivated mass shooting at the Cielo Vista Walmart. My heart was broken that day as I witnessed the carnage in the emergency room at UMC and visited with the families as they gathered to await the often-terrible news about their loved ones. Even in this case though, I witnessed the way our community came



Bishop Mark J. Seitz



together, refusing to return hatred with hatred, but to cling to one another in love.

It has been a joy in my time here to share this ministry with such an awesome, generous and dedicated group of priests, permanent deacons, religious women and laity. I love the unique West Texas culture, our dynamic binational community, that reveals new possibilities for what a border community can be. I love the depth of faith in our community, which means that Christianity matters here in the midst of this

secular age. I love the generosity of our people as we reach out to those not as fortunate as we are. I love the way leaders in this community come together: elected officials, civil servants, law enforcement, community and church leaders, to solve the challenges we face.

I am very grateful to all of you for your kindness, support and your prayers. Trusting in God's good plan for me, I am at 10 and counting!

## Diez y contando

Dicen que el tiempo vuela cuando uno se divierte. Bueno, tengo que confesar que me he estado divirtiendo como nunca desde que llegué a la Diócesis de El Paso. No es que haya sido todo tiempo de juego, pero simplemente no puedo imaginar una experiencia más satisfactoria, gratificante, desafiante y alegre que la que me han traído estos últimos 10 años. Probablemente habrán oído que nunca había estado en El Paso hasta que vine desde Dallas para ser anunciado como el nuevo Obispo de esta Diócesis. Para mí fue toda una sorpresa cuando el Nuncio Apostólico, el representante del Papa en los Estados Unidos, me llamó un sábado por la mañana en la primavera de 2013 para informarme que el recién elegido Papa, el Papa Francisco, me había nombrado su Obispo. Mi llamada al Oeste de Texas fue ciertamente inesperada, ciertamente tenía dudas sobre mis capacidades para servirlos bien, pero también tenía la sensación de que la mano del Señor estaba involucrada. Cuando me llamaron por primera vez para ser Obispo Auxiliar de mi diócesis adoptiva de Dallas, me dijeron que tenía que elegir un lema. El lema que elegí expresaba bien lo que sentía en mi corazón. Es una línea tomada de los Salmos: "Paratum Cor Meum" "Mi corazón está dispuesto". A lo largo de mi vida he ido aprendiendo que los planes de Dios siempre han sido mucho más creativos y satisfactorios que los míos. Por fin estaba aprendiendo que no necesitaba vivir bajo la ilusión de que tenía que estar completamente al mando. Podía hacer mi parte y luego disfrutar del viaje. Y vaya si lo he disfrutado. Nunca olvidaré la alegría y la afirmación que recibí el día del anuncio, el 6 de



mayo, y la emoción que se vivió en el Centro de Convenciones el 9 de julio. Era sobrecogedor pensar que me queráis incluso antes de conocerme. Quería estar a la altura de ese amor y no defraudaros. Lo más destacado será siempre la visita del Papa Francisco a nuestra frontera en febrero de 2016. Los obispos de las tres diócesis fronterizas, Ciudad Juárez, Las Cruces y El Paso, habían enviado cartas al Papa invitándolo a visitar nuestra región cuando supimos que vendría a México. Le sugerí que podría venir a nuestra zona para llamar la atención sobre el

viaje de tantas personas que se desplazan en busca de un lugar de seguridad y paz. ¡Qué día aquel! Por supuesto, uno de los días más difíciles fue el 3 de agosto de 2019, cuando tantos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas inocentes fueron asesinados o heridos en el tiroteo masivo por motivos raciales en el Walmart de Cielo Vista. Mi corazón se rompió ese día mientras presenciaba la carnicería en la sala de emergencias de UMC y visitaba a las familias mientras se reunían para esperar las noticias a menudo terribles sobre sus seres queridos. Incluso en este

caso, sin embargo, fui testigo de la forma en que nuestra comunidad se unió, negándose a devolver el odio con odio, sino a aferrarse unos a otros en el amor. Ha sido una alegría en mi tiempo aquí para compartir este ministerio con un grupo tan impresionante, generoso y dedicado de sacerdotes, diáconos permanentes, religiosas y laicos. Me encanta la cultura única del oeste de Texas, nuestra dinámica comunidad binacional, que revela nuevas posibilidades de lo que puede ser una comunidad fronteriza. Me encanta la profundidad de la fe en nuestra

comunidad, que significa que el cristianismo importa aquí en medio de esta era secular. Me encanta la generosidad de nuestra gente cuando tendemos la mano a los que no son tan afortunados como nosotros. Me encanta el modo en que los líderes de esta comunidad se unen: cargos electos, funcionarios, fuerzas del orden, líderes comunitarios y eclesiásticos, para resolver los retos a los que nos enfrentamos. Estoy muy agradecido a todos ustedes por su amabilidad, su apoyo y sus oraciones. Confiando en el buen plan de Dios para mí, ¡llevo 10 y contando!

## Three Men Were Ordained to the Priesthood for Diocese of El Paso

El Paso, TX - Bishop Mark Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso ordained three exceptional men to the priesthood in a momentous ceremony at St. Patrick Cathedral. Father Loyd Divinagracia, Father Angel Tarango, and Father Angel Aguilar embarked on a new chapter of dedicated service and spiritual leadership.

Father Loyd Divinagracia, known for his work supporting migrants, emphasized the significance of addressing migration realities and urged the community to extend compassion in accordance with the Gospel of Matthew.

Father Angel Tarango expressed deep gratitude for the guidance he received during his years of seminary formation, eagerly embracing his role as a priest and committing himself wholeheartedly to his divine calling.

Father Angel Aguilar, hailing

from Michoacán, Morelia in Mexico, expressed gratitude for God's love and mercy. He looks forward to serving the Church and the people of the Diocese of El Paso with enthusiasm and trust in God's guidance.

Father Loyd Divinagracia will be assigned to St. Pius X Catholic Church, Father Angel Tarango to St. Stephen Catholic Church in East El Paso, and Father Angel Aguilar to Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in the Mission Valley.

The Diocese of El Paso takes immense pride in welcoming these priests, confident in their commitment, unwavering faith, and unique talents to make a profound impact on the faithful. Under the leadership of Bishop Mark Seitz, the Diocese remains steadfast in its mission of spiritual guidance, support, and fostering social justice for its diverse population.



Bishop Mark Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso ordained three exceptional men to the priesthood in a momentous ceremony at St. Patrick Cathedral. Father Loyd Divinagracia, Father Angel Tarango, and Father Angel Aguilar embarked on a new chapter of dedicated service and spiritual leadership. *Photo by Emily Montelongo*

## Ordenación Sacerdotal De Tres Hombres En La Diócesis De El Paso

El Paso, TX - El Obispo Mark Seitz de la Diócesis de El Paso ordenó a tres hombres excepcionales al sacerdocio en una ceremonia trascendental en la Catedral de San Patricio. El Padre Loyd Divinagracia, el Padre Ángel Tarango y el Padre Ángel Aguilar se embarcaron en un nuevo capítulo de servicio dedicado y liderazgo espiritual.

El Padre Loyd Divinagracia, conocido por su trabajo de apoyo a los migrantes, hizo hincapié en la importancia de abordar las realidades de la migración e instó a la comunidad a extender la compasión de acuerdo con el Evangelio de Mateo.

El Padre Ángel Tarango expresó su profunda gratitud por la orientación que recibió durante sus años de formación en el seminario, abrazando con entusiasmo su papel como sacerdote y comprometiendo de todo corazón con su vocación divina.

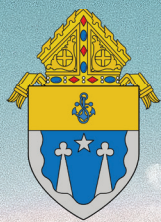
El Padre Ángel Aguilar, originario de Michoacán, Morelia en México, expresó su gratitud por el amor y la misericordia de Dios.

El Padre Loyd Divinagracia será asignado a la Iglesia Católica de San Pío X, el Padre Ángel Tarango a la Iglesia Católica de San Esteban en el Este de El Paso, y el Padre Ángel Aguilar a la Iglesia Católica de San Pedro y San Pablo en la Misión de El Paso.

La Diócesis de El Paso se enorgullece en dar la bienvenida a estos sacerdotes, confiando en su compromiso, fe inquebrantable y talentos únicos para hacer un profundo impacto en los fieles. Bajo el liderazgo del Obispo Mark Seitz, la Diócesis se mantiene firme en su misión de guía espiritual, apoyo y fomento de la justicia social para su diversa población.



El Obispo Mark Seitz de la Diócesis de El Paso ordenó a tres hombres excepcionales al sacerdocio en una ceremonia trascendental en la Catedral de San Patricio. El Padre Loyd Divinagracia, el Padre Ángel Tarango y el Padre Ángel Aguilar se embarcaron en un nuevo capítulo de servicio dedicado y liderazgo espiritual. *Foto de Emily Montelongo*



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# Domus Mariae

By Omar Rios  
Hope Border Institute

This past month, following the end of Title 42, which suspended asylum for thousands of vulnerable persons at the border, the Diocese of El Paso and the Hope Border Institute opened an emergency shelter for migrant families arriving in El Paso, Texas. I had the blessing of serving as an instrument of God's peace and mercy in Domus Mariae, a humble shelter for families that had no other option but to flee their home and look for a dignified life in another country.

We welcomed migrant families with open arms, recognizing in them the presence of Christ, in the downtrodden and vulnerable. For this reason, drawing on my (spiritual) vocation as an architect and builder, I stood up when I heard the call for in the words of our Bishop, Mark Seitz; "Together, be an example of the presence of Christ, here and now, not only for



Migrants and volunteers look on as a migrant man is being treated for a wound. Photo Courtesy of Hope Border Institute

us, if but for all."

In Domus Mariae, a place of hospitality, community and healing, we sought not only to offer physical refuge, but also a sacred space where the encounter with our migrant sisters and brothers

can become an encounter with the sacred. In each of their faces I saw resilience and hope. With each person I met, there was a new learning and a new message of peace. In each act of service, we worked to promote a culture

of encounter, justice and solidarity.

In the work, I was able to witness changes within our brothers and sisters. In the stormiest and most difficult moments, full of uncertainties, we came together and were there for one another. The community within Domus Mariae gave us the courage to face any obstacle that would come our way, and with each of those obstacles we joined hands and walked together.

Today more than ever, I am witness to the resilience and strength of each one of the families that passed through our home. Despite the obstacles and difficulties, they continue to move forward with hope and faith, grateful at every moment for everything they experienced. In their testimonies, we have found inspiration to continue our work with joy and commitment, knowing that "Blessed Are the Peacemakers, for They Will Be Called Children of God." (Mt 5,9) In every shared moment, I

sought to embody the values of fraternity and selfless service. I learned that by serving migrants, we serve ourselves, as we are all interconnected in the web of life and share a common responsibility for caring for our common home.

At the end of the day, I am the most grateful. Grateful for the community that was formed, for all the people who entered Domus Mariae to offer accompaniment, advice, food, clothing and friendship. Domus Mariae was a daily reminder that God's love transcends borders and calls us to be messengers of peace and justice.

Omar Rios is the Director of Humanitarian Operations at the Hope Border Institute. Through a robust program of research and policy work, leadership development, and action, we work to build justice and deepen solidarity across the borderlands. For more ways to get involved and support people on the move, visit [www.hopeborder.org](http://www.hopeborder.org).

# Domus Mariae

Este último mes, tras cambios en políticas migratorias, la Diócesis de El Paso y Hope Border Institute decidieron abrir un albergue para familias migrantes en El Paso, Texas. Así es como tuve la bendición de servir como instrumento de la paz y misericordia de Dios en Domus Mariae, un humilde albergue para familias que fueron rechazadas por otros espacios, familias que no tuvieron otra opción más que huir de su hogar y buscar una vida digna en otro país.

Hemos acogido a las familias migrantes con los brazos abiertos, reconociendo en ellos a Cristo presente en los más desposeídos y vulnerables. Por ello, desde mi vocación espiritual como constructor, levante la

mano en la misión, resonando en mí las palabras del llamado nuestro Sr. Obispo Marcos "Juntos, ser un ejemplo para la presencia de Cristo, aquí y ahora, no solo para nosotros, si no para todos."

En Domus Mariae, hospitalidad, comunidad y sanación, hemos procurado no solo ofrecer refugio físico, sino también un espacio sagrado donde el encuentro con nuestros hermanos migrantes se convierte en un encuentro con lo sagrado. En cada uno de sus rostros vi la resiliencia y la esperanza. Con cada nueva persona que conocí, un nuevo aprendizaje y un nuevo mensaje de paz. En cada acto de servicio hemos promovido una cultura de encuentro, justicia y solidaridad.

Fui testigo de cambios dentro de nuestros hermanos. En los momentos más tormentosos y difíciles, llenos de incertidumbres nos unimos y estuvimos uno para el otro. La

comunidad dentro de Domus Mariae nos dio la valentía para enfrentar cualquier obstáculo que se nos presentará en el camino, y con cada uno de esos obstáculos juntamos las manos y caminamos juntos.

El día de hoy más que antes, soy testigo de la resiliencia y la fortaleza de cada una de las familias que pasaron por nuestro hogar. A pesar de los obstáculos y las dificultades siguen adelante con esperanza y fe, agradecidos en cada momento por todo lo que estaban viviendo. En su testimo-

nio, hemos (HOPE) encontrado inspiración para continuar nuestro trabajo con alegría y compromiso, sabiendo que "Felices los que trabajan por la paz, porque serán llamados hijos de Dios."

(Mt 5,9) En cada momento compartido, he buscado encarnar los valores franciscanos de fraternidad y servicio desinteresado. He aprendido que, al servir a los migrantes, nos servimos a nosotros mismos, ya que todos estamos interconectados en la red de la vida y compartimos una responsabilidad común por el cuidado de nuestro hogar común.

Al final del día, soy yo el más agradecido. Agradecido por la comunidad que se formó, por todas las personas que entraron a Domus Mariae a brindar la es-

cucha, la compañía, un consejo, comida, ropa, la amistad. Domus Mariae fue un diario recordatorio de que el amor de Dios trasciende fronteras y nos llama a ser mensajeros de paz y justicia.

Omar Rios es el Director de Operaciones Humanitarias del Hope Border Institute. A través de un sólido programa de investigación y trabajo político, desarrollo de liderazgo y acción, trabajamos para construir la justicia y profundizar la solidaridad en las zonas fronterizas. Para saber más sobre cómo participar y apoyar a las personas que se desplazan, visite [www.hopeborder.org](http://www.hopeborder.org).



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

- |                                |       |
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| Fr. Jose Emilio Gomez Martinez | 07/07 |
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| Fr. Ken Ducre                  | 07/14 |
| Fr. Juan Francisco Moran       | 07/18 |
| Fr. James Kofski               | 07/19 |
| Fr. Martin Bustos Gonzalez     | 07/20 |
| Fr. Fabian Marquez             | 07/31 |

## ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

- |                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Fr. Angel Maldonado       | 07/01 |
| Fr. Ken Ducre             | 07/06 |
| Fr. Juan Zuniga Lopez     | 07/14 |
| Fr. Rafael Garcia         | 07/17 |
| Fr. Antonio Lasheras      | 07/25 |
| Fr. Gabriel Terrons Marin | 07/28 |



### Diocese offers assistance for victims of sexual abuse

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

### La diócesis ofrece asistencia a las víctimas de abusos sexuales

El Obispo Mark J. Seitz invita a cualquier persona que haya sido víctima de abuso sexual por parte de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o cualquier ministro de la iglesia, a contactar a la Coordinadora de Asistencia a las Víctimas, la Sra. Susan Martínez LCSW, al (915) 872-8465 o a la Oficina de la Cancillería, (915) 872-8407. La Iglesia desea la curación de cualquiera que haya sido dañado.



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## LIVING THE LITURGY

## The Lord's Prayer A Summary Of The Whole Gospel



Fr. Michael Lewis, STL

Last month, we began looking at the theology, history, and development of familiar prayers, and we continue this month with the second in our series — the Lord's Prayer, commonly known by its first words, "Our Father" in English, or "Pater noster" in Latin. The prayer we pray most frequently in the liturgy, the Lord's Prayer is part of every Mass, every Liturgy of the Word service, every sacrament, and every celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. It also is at the center of our devotional life, especially as part of the rosary.

The first to explicitly name it the "Lord's Prayer" was St. Cyprian, who wrote in the early 3rd century, "Let us pray just as God the master has taught us. ... When we make our prayer let the Father recognize the words of his own Son." His contemporary Tertullian called it "truly the

### The Lord's Prayer:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

summary of the whole gospel," and St. Augustine, writing in the early 5th century, said, "Run through all the words of the holy prayers [in Scripture], and I do not think that you will find anything in them that is not contained and included in the Lord's Prayer."

As Jesus' own words, the Lord's Prayer originates in Scripture. The prayer we recite today comes largely from Matthew 6:9-13, where Jesus was teaching how to pray during his Sermon on the Mount. A more

concise version of the prayer is found in Luke 11:2-4, where Jesus responds to the apostles' request, "Lord, teach us to pray." Luke's version, which is more direct, is probably closer to the original Aramaic that Jesus spoke.

As a whole, the Lord's Prayer resembles prayers that would have been familiar to the Jews of Jesus' time as well as today. It is similar, though much shorter, to the *Shemoneh Esreh*, or "Eighteen Benedictions," which observant Jews recite three times

a day. That prayer also blesses God's name, asks for a blessing of the fruits of the earth, and begs forgiveness of sins. The Lord's Prayer, however, has a pronounced eschatological character, that is, it is uniquely focused on our hope for the establishment of God's kingdom at the end of time (in Greek, "eschaton"), fulfilled when Christ returns in glory.

The Lord's Prayer is also a distinctly liturgical and communal prayer. The *Didache*, written around the beginning of the 2nd century, explains that, as the quintessential Christian prayer, the Lord's Prayer was recited by early Christians three times a day, probably a development of the similar Jewish practice. Cyprian writes that the Lord's Prayer was already a part of the Eucharistic liturgy by his time, and it became an essential component of the catechetical instruction of catechumens a century later. Indeed, today's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults continues to call for the Lord's Prayer to be presented to catechumens before their baptism. As they are about to formally join the community of believers in Christ, they too can call God

"Our Father."

The rather archaic language of the English translation we know by heart today is a byproduct of its origin as part of the Church of England's first *Book of Common Prayer*, published during the reign of King Edward VI in 1549. The first Baltimore Catechism published in the United States in 1885 only changed a few words ("which art in heaven" became "who art," "in earth as it is in heaven" became "on earth," and "them that trespass against us" became "those who trespass"). But the words we pray to this day in the United States, especially in the liturgy, have not changed since, though new Catholic and ecumenical translations emerged in the 1970s that were adopted by Catholic bishops in other countries.

As for its composition, the Lord's Prayer consists of an address to God as "Our Father," followed by six petitions (or seven, depending how one counts them). The first three petitions address God while the last three focus on human needs and affairs. We'll explore these components in more detail next month.

## El Padrenuestro Es Un Resumen De Todo El Evangelio

El mes pasado, comenzamos a examinar la teología, la historia y el desarrollo de las oraciones familiares, y continuamos este mes con la segunda de nuestra serie: la oración del Señor, comúnmente conocido por sus primeras palabras, "Padre Nuestro" en español, o "Pater noster" en latín. La oración que rezamos con más frecuencia en la liturgia, el Padre Nuestro, forma parte de cada Misa, de cada servicio de la Liturgia de la Palabra, de cada sacramento y de cada celebración de la Liturgia de las Horas. También está en el centro de nuestra vida devocional, especialmente como parte del rosario.

El primero en llamarlo explícitamente "la oración del Señor" fue San Cipriano, que escribió a principios del siglo III: "Oremos como Dios, el Maestro, nos ha enseñado. ... Cuando hagamos nuestra oración, que el Padre reconozca las palabras de su propio Hijo". Su contemporáneo Tertuliano lo llamó "verdaderamente el resumen de todo el Evangelio", y San Agustín, escribiendo a principios del siglo V, dijo: "Recorre todas las oraciones que hay en las Escrituras, y no creo que puedes encontrar

### El Padre Nuestro

*Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre; venga a nosotros tu reino; hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del mal.*

algo que no esté incluido en el Padrenuestro."

Como las propias palabras de Jesús, el Padrenuestro tiene su origen en la Escritura. La oración que recitamos hoy procede en gran parte de Mateo 6,9-13, donde Jesús enseñaba a orar durante su Sermón del monte. Una versión más concisa de la oración se encuentra en Lucas 11,2-4, donde Jesús responde a la petición de los apóstoles: "Señor, enséñanos a orar." La versión de Lucas, más directa,

probablemente se acerque más al arameo original que hablaba Jesús.

En su conjunto, el Padrenuestro se asemeja a oraciones que habrían sido familiares a los judíos de la época de Jesús, así como a los de hoy. Es similar, aunque mucho más corto, al *Shemoneh Esreh*, o "Dieciocho Bendiciones", que los judíos observantes recitan tres veces al día. Esta oración también bendice el nombre de Dios,

pide la bendición de los frutos de la tierra y pide perdón por los pecados. El Padrenuestro, sin embargo, tiene un marcado carácter escatológico, es decir, se centra exclusivamente en nuestra esperanza de la instauración del reino de Dios al final de los tiempos (en griego, "eskaton"), que se cumplirá cuando Cristo regrese en gloria.

El Padre Nuestro es también una oración litúrgica y comunitaria. La *Didaché*, escrito hacia principios del siglo II, explica que, como oración cristiana por excelencia, el Padrenuestro era recitado por los primeros cristianos tres veces al día, probablemente un desarrollo de la práctica judía similar. Cipriano escribe que el Padrenuestro ya formaba parte de la liturgia eucarística en su época, y se convirtió en un componente esencial de la instrucción catequética de los catecúmenos un siglo más tarde. De hecho, el actual Ritual de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos sigue pidiendo que el Padrenuestro sea presentado a los catecúmenos antes de su bautismo. Como están a punto de unirse formalmente a la comunidad de creyentes en Cristo,

también ellos pueden llamar a Dios "Padre nuestro".

El lenguaje bastante arcaico de la traducción inglesa que muchos conocen de memoria hoy en día es un subproducto de su origen como parte del primer *Libro de Oración Común* de la Iglesia de Inglaterra, publicado durante el reinado del rey Eduardo VI en 1549. El primer *Catecismo de Baltimore*, publicado en Estados Unidos en 1885, sólo cambió algunas palabras. Pero las palabras que rezamos hasta hoy en Estados Unidos, especialmente en la liturgia, no han cambiado desde entonces, aunque en los años setenta surgieron nuevas traducciones católicas y ecuménicas que fueron adoptadas por los obispos católicos de otros países.

En cuanto a su composición, el Padrenuestro consta de una alocución a Dios como "Padre nuestro", seguida de seis peticiones (o siete, según cómo se cuenten). Las tres primeras se dirigen a Dios, mientras que las tres últimas se centran en las necesidades y asuntos humanos. Analizaremos estos componentes con más detalle el próximo mes.



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# “My Heart is Ready!” - Celebrating 10 years of Service



Bishop Mark Seitz leads a procession during the interfaith vigil following the tragedy of August 3, 2019 in which a gunman shot and killed 23 El Pasoans.  
*Photo by Fernie Cenicerros*

## Bishop Seitz Shepherds El Paso With Prayer and Hope

**El Paso, TX** — July 9, 2023, marks a significant milestone in the life and ministry of the Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, D.D., as he celebrates his 10th anniversary as the Bishop of El Paso. This remarkable occasion not only commemorates a decade of compassionate leadership but also recognizes Bishop Seitz’s steadfast guidance during challenging times, including the tragic events of August 3rd and the unprecedented difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Bishop Mark J. Seitz grew up with a deep sense of empathy and a desire to serve others. Ordained a priest in 1980 after completing his studies in Philosophy, Divinity, Theology, and Liturgical Studies, he dedicated his early years to pastoral

ministry and academic pursuits, leaving an indelible mark on the communities he served.

In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI recognized Bishop Seitz’s exceptional qualities and elevated him to the Office of Bishop. His appointment as the Auxiliary Bishop of Dallas opened a new chapter in his life, preparing him for the significant role he would later undertake in El Paso.

Three years later, in 2013, Pope Francis entrusted Bishop Seitz with the leadership of the Diocese of El Paso. It was during his tenure as bishop that the community faced one of its darkest moments—the tragic events of August 3rd, 2019, when a gunman targeted innocent lives at a local shopping center. In the face of this unspeakable tragedy, Bishop Seitz became a beacon of

hope and healing for the grieving community.

With compassion as his guiding light, Bishop Seitz rallied the faithful, offering solace, comfort, and spiritual support to those affected by the tragedy. He led memorial services, bringing together people from different backgrounds, faiths, and cultures to mourn, pray, and support one another. Through his presence and pastoral care, he helped the community find strength and resilience in the face of unimaginable loss.

The year 2020 brought its own set of challenges with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing the importance of keeping the faithful connected to their spiritual nourishment, Bishop Seitz implemented innovative measures to ensure that

Sunday Mass remained accessible to all. By harnessing the power of technology, he facilitated televised Masses, allowing the community to participate in worship from the safety of their homes.

Through his leadership, Bishop Seitz conveyed the message that, even in times of physical distance, the bonds of faith and community remain strong. He encouraged the faithful to find solace in prayer, to seek spiritual communion even when unable to receive the Eucharist physically, and to support one another through acts of kindness and charity.

Bishop Seitz’s dedication to the community of El Paso extends far beyond the walls of the church. His unwavering commitment to the poor, vulnerable,

and marginalized has inspired countless individuals to embrace the values of compassion, justice, and solidarity. By actively engaging with issues such as immigration and social inequality, he has spurred a collective spirit of empathy and empowerment within the community.

As the Diocese of El Paso gathers to celebrate Bishop Mark J. Seitz’s 10 years of service, they honor not only his compassionate leadership but also the resilience and unity of the community he has shepherded. Through times of tragedy and hardship, Bishop Seitz has exemplified the transformative power of love, bringing healing, hope, and a renewed sense of purpose to the people of El Paso.



Bishop Seitz preaches to a group of newly ordained transitional deacons in 2021 at Mother Cabrini Catholic Church in East El Paso, Photo by Fr. Miguel Briseño, OFM



Bishop Seitz shakes hands with a Religious Sister during a Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral. Photo by Fernie Ceniceros



Bishop Seitz celebrates mass at the 6th congress for women in early 2020 for women from all over El Paso and Juarez. Photo by Fernie Ceniceros



“¡Mi corazón está listo!” - Ce

## El Obispo Seitz Pastorea El Paso

**El Paso, TX** - El 9 de julio de 2023 marca un hito importante en la vida y el ministerio del Reverendísimo Mark J. Seitz, D.D., ya que celebra su décimo aniversario como Obispo de El Paso. Esta notable ocasión no sólo conmemora una década de liderazgo compasivo, sino que también reconoce la firme guía del Obispo Seitz durante tiempos difíciles, incluyendo los trágicos acontecimientos del 3 de agosto y las dificultades sin precedentes planteadas por la pandemia de COVID-19.

Nacido en Milwaukee, Wisconsin, el obispo Mark J. Seitz creció con un profundo sentido de la empatía y el deseo de servir a los demás. Ordenado sacerdote en 1980 tras completar sus estudios de Filosofía, Divinidad, Teología y Estudios Litúrgicos, dedicó sus primeros años al ministerio pastoral y a actividades académicas, dejando una huella indeleble en las comunidades a las que sirvió.

En 2010, el Papa Benedicto XVI reconoció las cualidades excepcionales del obispo Seitz y lo elevó al cargo de obispo. Su nombramiento como

Obispo Auxiliar de Dallas abrió un nuevo capítulo en su vida, preparándole para el importante papel que más tarde asumiría en El Paso.

Tres años más tarde, en 2013, el Papa Francisco confió al Obispo Seitz el liderazgo de la Diócesis de El Paso. Fue durante su mandato como obispo que la comunidad enfrentó uno de sus momentos más oscuros: los trágicos acontecimientos del 3 de agosto de 2019, cuando un hombre armado atentó contra vidas inocentes en un centro comercial local. Frente a esta tragedia indescriptible, el obispo Seitz se convirtió en un faro de esperanza y sanación para la comunidad en duelo.

Con la compasión como guía, el obispo Seitz reunió a los fieles, ofreciendo consuelo, consuelo y apoyo espiritual a los afectados por la tragedia. Dirigió servicios conmemorativos, reuniendo a personas de diferentes orígenes, religiones y culturas para llorar, rezar y apoyarse mutuamente. Con su presencia y atención pastoral, ayudó a la comunidad a encontrar fuerza y resistencia ante una



# Celebrando 10 años de servicio



**Left:** Bishop Seitz displays prayer cards of two migrant refugee children who died in custody of the United States customs and Border Enforcement in the Fall of 2018. *Photo by Fernie Cenicerros*

**Above:** Bishop Seitz welcomes the first set of migrant refugees to the diocesan pastoral center shelter in the fall of 2018. *Photo by Joe Najera*



Bishop Seitz takes a short moment of prayer before the beginning of mass, *Photo by Joe Najera*

# Paso Con Oración Y Esperanza

pérdida inimaginable.

El año 2020 trajo su propio conjunto de desafíos con el brote de la pandemia de COVID-19. Reconociendo la importancia de mantener a los fieles conectados a su alimento espiritual, el obispo Seitz puso en marcha medidas innovadoras para garantizar que la misa dominical siguiera siendo accesible para todos. Aprovechando el poder de la tecnología, facilitó las misas televisadas, permitiendo a la comunidad participar en el culto desde la seguridad de sus hogares.

A través de su liderazgo, el obispo Seitz transmitió el mensaje de que, incluso en tiempos de distancia física, los lazos de la fe y la comunidad siguen siendo fuertes. Animó a los fieles a encontrar consuelo en la oración, a buscar la comunión espiritual aunque no puedan recibir la Eucaristía físicamente, y a apoyarse mutuamente mediante actos de bondad y caridad.

La dedicación del Obispo Seitz a la comunidad de El Paso se extiende mucho más allá de los

muros de la iglesia. Su inquebrantable compromiso con los pobres, los vulnerables y los marginados ha inspirado a innumerables personas a abrazar los valores de la compasión, la justicia y la solidaridad. Al comprometerse activamente con cuestiones como la inmigración y la desigualdad social, ha estimulado un espíritu colectivo de empatía y empoderamiento dentro de la comunidad.

Cuando la Diócesis de El Paso se reúne para celebrar los 10 años de servicio del Obispo Mark J. Seitz, honran no sólo su liderazgo compasivo, sino también la resistencia y la unidad de la comunidad que ha pastoreado. En tiempos de tragedia y dificultades, el Obispo Seitz ha ejemplificado el poder transformador del amor, trayendo sanación, esperanza y un renovado sentido de propósito a la gente de El Paso.



Bishop Seitz offers communion to the faithful of Juarez during the border mass in 2019. *Photo by Fernie Cenicerros*

## VIDA DEL ESPIRITU

## Resetea Tu Mente



Padre Wilson Cuevas

Todo ser humano, si se lo propone, puede cambiar su manera de pensar, analizar, ver la realidad y tomar decisión que antes no considera posibles. El propósito es descubrir lo que somos capaces de pensar y de hacer por nosotros mismos y por los demás. Hay un enorme potencial dormido en cada uno de nosotros y el desafío es saber cómo acceder a él y como utilizarlo para vivir mejor. Todos los seres humanos podemos ser felices en la medida en que decidamos serlo, sabiendo y pidiendo la ayuda de Dios, que nos dio la vida con un amor incondicional y eterno.

Debemos tener presente que nuestra mente se parece a una computadora. Si usamos un programa incorrecto, todo se descifra con una clave contraproducente; en consecuencia es necesario reprogramarla 'resetear' lo ya memorizado. Esta es la única manera de "vivir" realmente y no solo "sobrevivir". Es difícil el proceso de sustituir pensamientos negativos en pensamientos positivos? No se pretende con ello un trasplante de cerebro, si al menos de buena voluntad. Esto sí que está en nuestras manos, cambiar la manera de percibir los acontecimientos. La imagen perfecta es el vaso medio lleno y el vaso medio vacío. Si nos sucede alguna desgracia o cualquier imprevisto, dejemos de llorar y pensar que ante todo era mejor! En todo caso, si fuera necesario, sonriamos y pensemos que podríamos

estar peor. Está en nuestras manos y no en la de los demás. Solo es cuestión de observar ese vaso y darnos cuenta de lo que tiene, en vez de lo que no tiene.

Resulta difícil cambiar el curso de los acontecimientos, porque eso pertenece al destino; sin embargo podemos decidir con que clave interpretarlos. No es sencillo; sin embargo ningún médico nos receta que reaccionemos con gestos desabridos ante cualquier circunstancia, sobre todo si tomamos en cuenta que la vida es en cierta forma una cadena continua de obstáculos que debemos superar. Por ejemplo, recordar que Dios nos ama y somos sus elegidos puede convertirse en ese lente que siempre está a nuestra disposición, para ver así una realidad menos triste de como parece.

Deseando probar el poder de observación de sus alumnos, una profesora les dijo un día que escribieran lo que pensarían si al entrar a un cuarto encontrarán telarañas, cada niña con excepción de una, respondió mas o menos lo mismo. "No habían sacudido el cuarto últimamente"; "el dueño era descuidado"; "los inquilinos eran sucios y perezosos". La respuesta de la cuarta niña demostró que su mente tendía hacia lo positivo de las cosas. Su respuesta fue: "había estado ahí una araña". Tratar de ver el lado positivo y constructivo de las cosas, si es posible. Evita ser demasiado crítico. Apégate a los hechos reales de una situación, sin buscar interpretaciones hirientes. Si esperas que Dios te juzgue por todos tus hechos, asegúrate de hacer tú lo mismo con respecto a los demás. Aun mejor, has resaltar sus puntos buenos y no tendrás tiempo para ver su lado malo.

Somos lo que pensamos. Quizás en primer momento



puede parecer un juicio exagerado; sin embargo no lo es. Cuando alguien busca la soledad, su única compañía son sus pensamientos y debemos aprender a controlarlos y no dejarnos dominar por ellos. Decía Santo Tomás: "Cuidate con lo piensas porque te sucede". Si piensas bien te suceden cosas buenas, si piensas mal, te suceden cosas malas. Si piensas me voy a accidentar, te accidentas. Si vas a comer algo y piensas me va a caer mal, te cae mal. La mente condiciona y tiene poder. En consecuencia, Jesús nos invita a no tomar realmente en serio lo que nos llega del exterior, es decir de los demás. Los "pensamientos de ignominia" que vienen del interior, desde dentro de nosotros mismos, son los que pueden "contaminarnos"

y "enférmanos" de negatividad. Los pensamientos se traducen en palabras que salen de la boca y las palabras en hechos. Pueden tender al pesimismo o peor aun al abandono. Es necesario saber que no solo emitimos un juicio al identificarnos con ese tipo de pensamientos destructivo. Más bien asumimos conductas que nos llevan a actuar de tal manera que los acontecimientos, por desgracia toman un derrotero desagradable que nos inducirá al masoquismo. ( Mt. 15, 17-20).

Seguramente, ustedes ya lo saben, acaso no es cierto que cuando la moral esta por los suelos, incluso la misma digestión se vuelve una pesadilla? Con frecuencia escuchamos "estoy amargado". Y es verdad, "el sabor de los pensamientos es "am-

argo", se vuelve el sabor de los alimentos. Nos deprimimos, nos evadimos y perdemos el rumbo; hemos dejado de recibir la señal de ese "Navegador Satelital" que es Dios. Por supuesto no se nos pide ser autómatas. Hay momento en que yo mismo he tenido pensamientos negativos y dicho palabras condenatorias que solo son un desahogo útil o necesario: Lo importante es que no se convierta en una paranoia crónica. Al sobrepasar ciertos límites, mi día y toda mi vida se torna insufrible por algo que en es verdad no vale la pena. Me da alivio saber que Dios nos ama. Nos da libertad para equivocarnos. No lleva estadística de nuestros errores y siempre esta ahí para volvernos a acoger!

## Reset Your Mind

If they set their mind to it, every human can change their way of thinking, analyzing, seeing reality, and making decisions that they did not consider possible before. The purpose is to discover what we can think and do for ourselves and others. There is enormous dormant potential in each of us, and the challenge is knowing how to access it and use it to live better. All human beings can be happy to the extent that we decide to be happy and understanding and ask for the help of God, who gave us life with unconditional and eternal love.

We must keep in mind that our mind is like a computer. If we use the wrong program, everything will be deciphered with a counterproductive key; therefore, it is necessary to reprogram it by 'resetting' what has already been memorized. This is the only way to "live" and not just "survive." Is the process of replacing negative thoughts with positive thoughts difficult? It is not intended as a brain transplant, but at least a transplant of goodwill. It is in our hands to change the

way we perceive events. The perfect image is the glass half full and the glass half empty. If any misfortune or unforeseen event happens to us, let's stop crying and think it was all for the best! In any case, if necessary, let us smile and believe that we could be worse off. It is in our hands and not in the hands of others. It's just a matter of looking at that glass and realizing what it has rather than what it doesn't have.

It is difficult to change the course of events because that belongs to destiny; however, we can decide with which key to interpret them. It is not easy; however, no doctor prescribes us to react with unpleasant gestures to any circumstance, especially if we realize that life is, in a certain way, a continuous chain of obstacles that we must overcome. For example, remembering that God loves us and that we are his chosen ones can become that lens that is always at our disposal so that we can see a reality that is less sad than it seems.

Wanting to test her students'

powers of observation, a teacher one day told them to write down what she would think if, upon entering a room, they found cobwebs, every girl except one answered more or less the same. "They hadn't shaken the room lately"; "the landlord was careless"; "the tenants were dirty and lazy." The fourth girl's response showed that her mind tended toward positive things. Her response was, "A spider had been there." Try to see the positive and constructive side of things. Avoid being overly critical. Stick to the facts of a situation without looking for hurtful interpretations. If you expect God to judge you on all your deeds, do the same for others. Better yet, bring out their good points; you will need more time to see their right side.

We are what we think. It may seem like an exaggerated judgment; however, it is not. When someone seeks solitude, the only company is their thoughts, and we must learn to control them and not be dominated by them. St. Thomas used to say:

"Be careful with what you think because it happens to you." If you think good things happen to you, if you feel bad, bad things happen to you. If you think I will have an accident, you have an accident. If you are going to eat something and think it will be bad for me, it will be bad for you. The mind conditions and has power.

Consequently, Jesus invites us not to take seriously what comes to us from the outside, that is, from others. The "thoughts of ignominy" that come from within, from inside ourselves, are the ones that can "contaminate" us and "enrage" us with negativity. Thoughts are translated into words that come out of the mouth and words into deeds. They can tend to pessimism or, even worse, to abandonment. It is necessary to know that we do not just pass judgment by identifying with such destructive thoughts. Instead, we assume behaviors that lead us to act so that events, unfortunately, take an unpleasant course that will induce us into masochism (Mt. 15:17-20).

Indeed, as you already know, isn't it true that when morale is at rock bottom, even digestion becomes a nightmare? We often hear, "I am bitter." And it is true, "the taste of thoughts is "bitter," it becomes the taste of food. We become depressed, become evasive, and lose our way; we have stopped receiving the signal from that "Satellite Navigator," which is God. Of course, we are not asked to be automatons. There are times when I have had negative thoughts and said condemning words that are only a useful or necessary outlet: the important thing is that it does not become a chronic paranoia. When I go beyond certain limits, my day and whole life become unbearable because of something that is not worth it. I am relieved to know that God loves us. He gives us the freedom to make mistakes. He doesn't keep statistics of our errors and is always there to welcome us back!

## SIDEWALK JESUS

## Small Actions Get Big Results



## Janet M. Crowe

Little fingers grabbed at the weeds along the backyard fence. Gathering them into her hands, the young girl was careful to keep the yellow flowers upright among the green leaves. She then skipped her way into the house and stretched out her arms. “Look, Mommy, I brought you some pretty flowers.”

Her mother turned from the work she had been doing and looked down at the little girl with her gift of picked weeds. “Mustard flowers!” the mother exclaimed. “My favorites! Thank you, my sweet child, for bringing me such pretty flowers. We’ll set them right here on the kitchen table for everyone to enjoy.”

The little girl watched her mother bring out a nice vase from the cabinet and gently arrange the gift of yellow flowers in the vase. Seeing them on the table, the little girl’s face shone with pride.

However, when she showed her gift to her older brother later that day, the boy laughed at her. “You gave Mom a bunch of weeds? They’re ugly and worthless.”

“Not!” cried the little girl. “Mommy liked them.”

“She didn’t want to hurt your feelings,” scoffed her brother. “You’re just a kid and don’t

know any better but those are weeds, not flowers.”

When her mother found the little girl crying in her room, she hugged her.

“I’m sorry, Mommy,” cried the girl. “I gave you ugly weeds, not pretty flowers.”

“No, you didn’t, little one,” reassured the mother. “You gave me your love which is a very special gift. You gave me the gift of loveliness because you saw the beauty in those green plants with their little yellow flowers.”

“But they’re just weeds!” cried the girl. “Daddy pulls them out and throws them away. Nobody wants them to grow anywhere.”

“Sometimes other people judge things as not worthwhile because they can’t see the beauty or the value inside of things,” explained the mother. “They are seeing a problem instead of looking at them with love. God sees the beauty inside of us and all that He has made. God made those mustard flowers, but people call them weeds.”

“So, you weren’t lying when you said you liked them?” asked the girl.

“Of course not!” said the mother. “I would rather have a bouquet of mustard ‘weeds’ given to me with love than a dozen roses from a fancy flower shop. When you saw those flowers in the yard, you thought of me and how you could surprise and please me. You gave me a very special gift – the gift of your love. There is no better present in all the world.”

That little girl grew up and had children of her own. And, yes, her children also brought mustard weed bouquets to her which made her heart sing with joy at



their gifts of love.

If we could view the world through the eyes of innocent children, how wonderful this world would become! Instead of seeing obstacles in our way and complications to our plans, we would learn to value what is really important.

What IS important? People. But how do we care for and treat other people?

Do we see a long checkout line at the store and grumble because we’re in a hurry and feel that all these people are an imposition to us? Or do we take a good look at the people around us and see women and men doing exactly the same thing that we’re doing? We aren’t any more important than they are. Rather than standing in line with an impatient frown, we could smile or compliment a person’s hair or shirt which might even change a person’s outlook. That feeling could then spread to others along their way. After all, we are all God’s children and should try to have patience with one another if

we expect God to have patience when we stand in line with our plea for His help in obtaining the answer to our prayers.

How many times have we been at work and heard a co-worker complain about another colleague? Do we really know all that is going on in that person’s life? Do we know whether they had a fight with their spouse or if their child is sick and the person didn’t get much sleep? Wouldn’t it be better to help the colleague with whatever someone is complaining about rather than spreading more anguish behind their backs? Pulling people up rather than putting them down would be what Jesus would want us to do.

Do we become totally overwhelmed watching the news and reading about all the problems in the world? How can one person possibly make a difference? We don’t have enough money or time or talent to solve the world’s problems. However, instead of looking at all the problems, maybe we can focus

on one small action at a time. I can’t cure cancer or help make education affordable for everyone, but many fast-food locations are accepting the change from our purchases to benefit a charity that will help a worthy cause. I can afford a few cents to round up my purchase to the next dollar and donate those coins. Will it change the world? Maybe not, but it might be a start.

A smile. A compliment. A few coins in my hand. Such small things, but there are so many more small things that we can do to make a difference. The intent behind a gift is much more valuable than the price of the gift itself. If we try to see a blessing that we could share instead of a hindrance that blocks our way, we will understand how God wishes us to see the world.

A bouquet of mustard weeds given with love is more precious than a dozen roses. Let’s pick some for someone today.

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

## Setting a Moral Vision as Parents



## Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

When I was recently visiting with friends, a group of young girls was playing in a neighboring yard. Every few minutes, for more than an hour, one of them would scream at the very top of her lungs. A woman in our group finally commented, “When I was a kid, if I ever screamed like that, Mom would have pulled me aside and said, ‘Don’t you dare raise your voice like that in public!’”

In another episode more recently, I saw two young people, maybe 16 years old, rush out of a home. A girl with pink hair and tattoos was following a guy, yelling at him and saying, “Don’t get into that car! Don’t even think of leaving!” As he got into the car and started to back up,

she began pounding her fists on the driver side window, letting out a series of expletives. Next, she placed herself right in front of the car and began to beat the hood. Then she got up onto the hood and started to pummel the windshield, screaming a barrage of profanities. By this time, other vehicles had stopped. When the girl stepped aside from the car for a moment, the driver sped off. She took off after him, running down the road, waving her arms and yelling hysterically.

In a middle class residential family neighborhood, I was surprised to witness such an occurrence. In discussing it with a couple of bystanders, one offered, “I guess you just chalk it up to their being teenagers.” Another countered, “When I was growing up, even teens knew they couldn’t engage in a spectacle like that.”

Seeing it firsthand made me wonder where the parents were, and whether as a society, we are trending more and more towards “lowest common denominator” standards and behaviors. How concerned should we be when

indignation, rage and narcissism replace civility and a common moral code? Not only are young people caught up in these concerns, but society itself seems to be grappling with them ever more broadly.

R.J. Snell gets it right when he says that we shouldn’t be “complaining about kids these days, since it’s not the kids who are the root of the problem: it is the duty of a coherent society, coherent religion, and coherent family structure to provide a moral horizon. This is the fault of the adults, those who refused the grave obligation to offer tradition to the young.”

How is it that we sometimes fail to set a moral vision for the next generation? Kids are endowed with some of the finest hypocrisy-detecting systems in the world, and when Catholic parents, to pick a relevant example, drop off their children at the parish for Catechism, but do not themselves attend weekly Mass, the children cannot fail to notice the disconnect. Similarly, when a Catholic parent continues to live in an irregular marital

situation, or picks and chooses from among the Lord’s teachings, the mixed messaging pops up quickly on children’s moral radar. Consistency and coherence are key parental traits for transmitting robust values to children.

Another is parental fortitude. As children are pulled sideways by schools, false ideologies and other societal forces that undermine family life and sound parenting, setting a moral vision for one’s children can be a Herculean task requiring enormous dedication. I often think back to the strength and determination of my parents as I was growing up, battling not only me as a willful teen, but also pushing back against many of these broader currents and challenges around them.

While parents may sometimes deserve blame for the shortcomings of their children, many times they do not. Parenting is no easy endeavor and parents are oftentimes unsung heroes.

When young people witness their parents standing firm and practicing their faith by serving the Lord and others, they are

more likely to take their own spiritual and religious identities seriously, becoming empowered to make significant sacrifices for others. They also are strengthened to be able to make intentional moral decisions and to direct their behaviors in ordered ways.

Parents who set a moral vision for themselves and their children build up the life of the family. As kids experience the joys of a family life not governed by the insatiable demands of their own desires, they can contribute to building a neighborhood and a world where narcissism and the “lowest common denominator” are replaced by goodness, generosity, right order and peace of heart.

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

# Progress Celebrates Gratitude with Bishop's Society of Faith Donors

By Tina Edwards-Milam,  
Annual Appeal Director

On June 1st, 2023 the Catholic Foundation hosted a fun evening of fellowship, food, and heartfelt thanksgiving in honor of the Catholic Ministry Appeal's Bishop's Society of Faith Donors.

The Bishop's Society of Faith recognizes those outstanding donors to the Catholic Ministry Appeal. The Bishop's Society of Faith is a community of stewards who take a leadership role in the work of the Church through the Catholic Ministry Appeal (Progress). Members of this group of donors have demonstrated an exceptional vision for the Catholic Church in the Diocese of El Paso. Those in attendance ranged from the Guardian Angel Society, Benefactor Society, and the Leader Society. These donors gave the Annual Appeal a beautiful gift of \$2,500 or more.

When we support the Catholic Ministry Appeal, we give the glorious gift of Christ Jesus to thousands of people in need of spiritual, charitable, and educational assistance across our diocese.

This meaningful evening was an opportunity to celebrate and demonstrate our sincerest gratitude and a chance to strengthen and deepen our relationships with one another. By the Grace

of God, a little over 50 Society Members were in attendance. Also present were several Ministry Directors, Retired Priests, Clergy, Deacons, and a few of our Seminarians, and a joyful evening of food, fellowship, and fun.

The evening consisted of a divine backyard dinner at Bishop Mark Seitz's home with a delicious menu of gourmet burgers and dogs catered by our very own Deacon Danny Bejarano and his beautiful family.

The Lord entrusts us with His mission. He delights in the ministry of working with us. We are all co-creators of His world and are to be good stewards of His household and the gifts He has given us. We are all tasked with furthering the mission of our Lord, growing Disciples, continuing to build His Kingdom, and sharing the Good News of the Gospel.

"Be who God intended you to be, and you will light the world on fire!" ~ St. Catherine of Sienna

The goal of this simple yet delightful evening was to celebrate you, the donors. Through your loving, sacrificial generosity in supporting our ministries, you are the true lay leaders; you send seminarians to school, save our teens who have lost their faith, comfort widows in distress, and



On June 1st, 2023 the Catholic Foundation hosted a fun evening of fellowship, food, and heartfelt thanksgiving in honor of the Catholic Ministry Appeal's Bishop's Society of Faith Donors. Photo by Emily Montelongo

help those experiencing hunger and poverty. You are helping our community encounter and build a solid lifelong spiritual foundation with Jesus.

Together, we are His hands, feet, eyes, and our love for God and one another truly exemplifies the actual presence of His Kingdom here on earth.

Please, help us support those most in need through the hard work and dedication of our Min-

istries. If you have not already pledged to this year's Catholic Ministry Appeal. Please take a moment to prayerfully discern making a sacrificial gift in love to the Catholic Ministry Appeal today. Whether it be a one-time gift or a monthly gift, every single gift made to the appeal has a significantly enormous impact, and together we will hit our goal and be able to further the mission of our ministries by being the

Face of Christ in our community. God willing, we hope to see you at next year's event!

Visit [www.2023progress-cma.org](http://www.2023progress-cma.org) or contact the Catholic Ministry Annual Appeal Director Tina Edwards-Milam at the Catholic Foundation at [tedwards-milam@catholicfoundationelpaso.org](mailto:tedwards-milam@catholicfoundationelpaso.org) or 915-872-8412.

## Progress celebra su gratitud con los donantes de la Sociedad Episcopal de la Fe

Por Tina Edwards-Milam,  
Directora de la Campaña Anual

El 1 de junio de 2023, la Fundación Católica organizó una divertida velada de compañerismo, comida y sincero agradecimiento en honor a los donantes de la Sociedad de la Fe del Obispo de la Campaña del Ministerio Católico.

La Sociedad Episcopal de la Fe reconoce a aquellos donantes sobresalientes de la Campaña del Ministerio Católico. La Sociedad Episcopal de la Fe es una comunidad de administradores que asumen un papel de liderazgo en el trabajo de la Iglesia a través de la Campaña Católica para el Ministerio (Progress). Los miembros de este grupo de donantes han demostrado una visión excepcional para la Iglesia Católica en la Diócesis de El Paso. Los asistentes pertenecían

a la Sociedad del Ángel de la Guarda, a la Sociedad Benefactora y a la Sociedad Líder. Estos donantes dieron a la Campaña Anual un hermoso regalo de \$2,500 o más.

Cuando apoyamos la Campaña del Ministerio Católico, damos el glorioso regalo de Cristo Jesús a miles de personas necesitadas de asistencia espiritual, caritativa y educativa en toda nuestra diócesis.

Esta significativa velada fue una oportunidad para celebrar y demostrar nuestra más sincera gratitud y una oportunidad para fortalecer y profundizar nuestras relaciones mutuas. Por la Gracia de Dios, asistieron algo más de 50 miembros de la Sociedad. También estuvieron presentes varios Directores de Ministerios, Sacerdotes Jubilados, Clérigos, Diáconos, y algunos de nuestros Seminaristas, y una alegre velada

de comida, compañerismo y diversión.

La noche consistió en una cena divina en el patio trasero de la casa del Obispo Mark Seitz con un delicioso menú de hamburguesas gourmet y perros atendidos por nuestro propio Diácono Danny Bejarano y su hermosa familia.

El Señor nos confía Su misión. El se deleita en el ministerio de trabajar con nosotros. Todos somos co-creadores de Su mundo y debemos ser buenos administradores de Su casa y de los dones que nos ha dado. Todos tenemos la tarea de promover la misión de nuestro Señor, hacer crecer discípulos, seguir construyendo su Reino y compartir la Buena Nueva del Evangelio.

"Sé quien Dios quiso que fueras, ¡y encenderás el mundo!". ~ Santa Catalina de Siena

El objetivo de esta sencilla

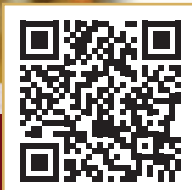
pero encantadora velada era celebrar a vosotros, los donantes. A través de su amorosa y sacrificada generosidad en el apoyo a nuestros ministerios, ustedes son los verdaderos líderes laicos; ustedes envían a los seminaristas a la escuela, salvan a nuestros adolescentes que han perdido su fe, consuelan a las viudas en apuros y ayudan a los que sufren hambre y pobreza. Ayudáis a nuestra comunidad a encontrar a Jesús y a construir una sólida base espiritual para toda la vida.

Juntos, somos sus manos, sus pies, sus ojos, y nuestro amor por Dios y por los demás ejemplifica verdaderamente la presencia real de su Reino aquí en la tierra.

Por favor, ayúdenos a apoyar a los más necesitados a través del trabajo duro y la dedicación de nuestros Ministerios. Si aún no se ha comprometido con la Campaña de los Ministerios Católicos

de este año. Por favor, tómese un momento para discernir en oración y hacer un regalo de sacrificio en amor a la Campaña del Ministerio Católico hoy. Ya sea un donativo único o un donativo mensual, cada donativo hecho a la Campaña tiene un impacto significativamente enorme, y juntos alcanzaremos nuestra meta y podremos promover la misión de nuestros ministerios siendo el Rostro de Cristo en nuestra comunidad. Si Dios quiere, ¡esperamos veros en el evento del año que viene!

Visite [www.2023progress-cma.org](http://www.2023progress-cma.org) o póngase en contacto con la Directora de la Campaña Anual del Ministerio Católico, Tina Edwards-Milam, en la Fundación Católica en [tedwards-milam@catholicfoundationelpaso.org](mailto:tedwards-milam@catholicfoundationelpaso.org) o 915-872-8412.



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# Bilingual Stewardship Conference in the Diocese of El Paso Next Month

By **Karina Sandoval**  
*Stewardship Coordinator*

The Catholic Foundation will offer to the Diocese of El Paso a bilingual Stewardship Conference for all parishes on Saturday, August 12th in San Antonio de Padua Church from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, featuring Carlos Proaño, from the Diocese of San Jose, Carlos Proano has over 26 years of experience in Catholic development, conducting Stewardship and fundraising in multi-cultural parishes and dioceses throughout the United States, he is bilingual/bicultural. In Mr. Proaño words: "serving the Church has been my calling and I am dedicated to using my experience in Catholic development to create an environment of Stewardship amongst the parishes to

better serve the financial needs of the Church." Carlos Proano serves as the Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of San Jose since 2020.

The Stewardship Conference will also offer the expertise of Fr. Mariano Lopez, Parish Administrator for San Antonio de Padua, Deacon Jesus Cardenas, Tepeyac Institute Director and Arturo Adame, Programs Coordinator for Tepeyac Institute, these presenters will talk about the Importance of Stewardship in Parishes, How Social Media serves as a Tool for Evangelization in our World Today, How Practical Stewardship Speaks to Young Adults and the Understanding of the Four of a Life of Stewardship.

The main objective of this conference is to re-introduce the

meaning of Stewardship to the Catholic community of El Paso and learn that is our call to assist the needs of our parishes nowadays where Mass attendance in the nation drops every year. The Stewardship Conference will also offer two sessions exclusively for Clergy by Mr. Carlos Proano, he will offer two sessions of Successful Stewardship Strategies for Parishes in English and Spanish.

Karina Sandoval Enriquez, Stewardship Coordinator for the Catholic Foundation remarks to the Catholic community the importance of the understanding and practice of a life Stewardship in our border community, she mentions that an understanding of the meaning of Stewardship is essential to continue the work of evangelization in our diocese,

Sandoval Enriquez says, "Without an understanding of the meaning of Stewardship in our faith lives our good works become empty when we lack a relationship with God and a good found spirituality with our parishes and with one another."

The bilingual Stewardship Conference will also be supported by Our Sunday Visitor, catholic publisher who serves millions of Catholics globally through its publishing, offertory, and communication services. The Catholic Foundation would like to thank in advance to Our Sunday Visitor, to Domingo Betancourt and Patti Maldonado for his contribution.

For more information and registration, please contact Karina Sandoval Enriquez at [ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org](mailto:ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org) or at

915-872-8412.

Stewardship is a grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.

The Bilingual Stewardship Conference will be at San Antonio de Padua Parish on Saturday, August 12th from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. The Conferenc will be featuring, Carlos Proano, Fr. Mariano Lopez, Deacon Jesus Cardenas and Arturo Adame.

For more information, please contact Karina Sandoval Enriquez, Stewardship Coordinator at [ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org](mailto:ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org)

## Conferencia bilingüe sobre corresponsabilidad el próximo mes

Por **Karina Sandoval**  
*Coordinador de Mayordomía*

La Fundación Católica ofrecerá a la Diócesis de El Paso una Conferencia bilingüe sobre Corresponsabilidad para todas las parroquias el sábado 12 de agosto en la Iglesia de San Antonio de Padua de 8:00 am a 1:00 pm, con la participación de Carlos Proano, de la Diócesis de San José, Carlos Proano tiene más de 26 años de experiencia en el desarrollo católico, dirigiendo la Corresponsabilidad y la recaudación de fondos en parroquias multiculturales y diócesis en todo Estados Unidos, él es bilingüe/bicultural. En palabras del Sr. Proaño "servir a la Iglesia ha sido mi vocación y estoy

dedicado a usar mi experiencia en el desarrollo católico para crear un ambiente de Corresponsabilidad entre las parroquias para servir mejor a las necesidades financieras de la Iglesia". Carlos Proano se desempeña como Director de Mayordomía y Desarrollo de la Diócesis de San José desde 2020.

La Conferencia de Corresponsabilidad también ofrecerá la experiencia del P. Mariano López, Administrador Parroquial de San Antonio de Padua, el Diácono Jesús Cárdenas, Director del Instituto Tepeyac y Arturo Adame, Coordinador de Programas del Instituto Tepeyac, estos presentadores hablarán sobre la Importancia de la Corresponsabilidad en las Parroquias, Cómo los Medios

Sociales sirven como una Herramienta para la Evangelización en nuestro Mundo de Hoy, Cómo la Corresponsabilidad Práctica Habla a los Adultos Jóvenes y la Comprensión de los Cuatro de una Vida de Corresponsabilidad.

El objetivo principal de esta conferencia es re-introducir el significado de la Corresponsabilidad a la comunidad Católica de El Paso y aprender que es nuestro llamado para asistir las necesidades de nuestras parroquias hoy en día donde la asistencia a Misa en la nación baja cada año. La Conferencia de Corresponsabilidad también ofrecerá dos sesiones exclusivas para el Clero a cargo del Sr. Carlos Proano, él ofrecerá dos sesiones de Estrategias Exi-

tosas de Corresponsabilidad para Parroquias en Inglés y Español.

Karina Sandoval Enriquez, Coordinadora de Corresponsabilidad de la Fundación Católica señala a la comunidad católica la importancia de la comprensión y práctica de una vida Corresponsable en nuestra comunidad fronteriza, menciona que la comprensión del significado de la Corresponsabilidad es esencial para continuar el trabajo de evangelización en nuestra diócesis, Sandoval Enriquez dice, "Sin una comprensión del significado de la Corresponsabilidad en nuestras vidas de fe nuestras buenas obras se vuelven vacías cuando carecemos de una relación con Dios y una espiritualidad bien encontrada con nuestras

parroquias y entre nosotros."

La Conferencia bilingüe sobre Corresponsabilidad también contará con el apoyo de Our Sunday Visitor, editorial católica que sirve a millones de católicos en todo el mundo a través de sus servicios de publicación, ofertas y comunicación. La Fundación Católica agradece de antemano a Our Sunday Visitor, a Domingo Betancourt y a Patti Maldonado por su contribución.

Para más información e inscripciones, póngase en contacto con Karina Sandoval Enriquez en [ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org](mailto:ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org) o en el 915-872-8412.

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## Sisters in Action Fund Established in Honor of Sister Antonia de Maria, SSHJP

By: Dr. Martha Casas,  
Catholic Legacy Fund Donor

As a young girl enrolled in a Catholic elementary school in southern California during the 1960s, I was blessed to have been taught by a religious sister at every grade level. Naturally, my fellow classmates and I had lay people to teach us as well, however, it was the sisters that I believe impacted my life the most, namely, Sister Mary Ruth, Sister Jean Marie, and Sister Mary Madeleine. In addition to providing religious instruction, the sisters delivered a challenging and enriching curriculum that afforded me a solid foundation in academics. Moreover, the sisters helped me to develop a level of mental and emotional self-discipline that would enable and sustain me in completing a doctoral dissertation many years later.

My beloved aunt, Sister Antonia de Maria, was a sister of the Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Poor; an order that has been serving in El Paso since 1920. My aunt was born on October 4, 1925 in her family home on Park Street in Segundo Barrio. She came from a family of twelve children. Unfortunately, two of her brothers died at young ages. My mother was fifteen months older than my aunt, Sister Antonia. They were very close growing up and my mother often spoke about how she and her sister enjoyed watching Shirley Temple movies together and talked about how they went on a trip to Mexico to visit family with their older sister Carmen. She described the fun they had traveling by bus and by train to Mexico.

At the age of sixteen, my aunt left her family to become a nun. My mother said that although she was happy for her sister to pursue her childhood dream, she cried the day that her sister left because she knew that she would miss her dearest companion. After my aunt became a sister, she returned to El Paso and lived at the Queen of Peace Convent and taught elementary school at Father Yermo. Alongside her fellow sisters, my aunt served the poor. The sisters would ask family and friends for gently used clothing so that they could take these items to help the poor in Puebla, Mexico.

In 1971, my father became ill and my family moved to El Paso to be close to the family. I graduated from Austin High School in El Paso in 1974. Although I continued to receive a good education at a public high school, the majority of my years of schooling were in a Catholic school.

Although I knew my aunt growing up, it wasn't until we were both enrolled at the University of Texas at El Paso studying to become elementary school teachers that I really came to know her. We studied together at the library. My aunt was earning her degree to teach at Father Yermo and I was hoping to gain employment with the El Paso Independent School District in the future. One memory that I have of this time period is when we were both enrolled in the



Sister Antonia de Maria, was a sister of the Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Poor; an order that has been serving in El Paso since 1920. Photo by Courtesy Catholic Foundation

same child psychology course. I was pleasantly surprised to see my aunt seated when I walked into the classroom. "What fun," I thought as I sat down in the row next to her.

The first three class periods were difficult for my aunt. The professor was always asking her questions about her views on issues that made her feel uncomfortable. She would nervously laugh to make light of the situation, but the professor would continue embarrassing her. My relationship with the professor was very different. He respected me and I enjoyed speaking in class. But on the fourth day of class, the student who sat in front of my aunt was absent. She felt vulnerable and asked me to come over and sit in front of her so that I could cover her or give her some kind of protection. Quickly, I moved and sat in front of her. But as my aunt was asking me to move, the professor walked into the classroom and asked, "Why do you need Martha to sit in front of you, Sister?" Immediately, I looked at him and said, "She's my aunt!" I was angry and he knew it. He could see my eyes and facial expression. The professor was quiet and began class. He never bothered my aunt again. At the age of twenty, I realized that not everyone appreciates our priests and sisters.

For thirteen years, I went on with my life teaching elementary school in the El Paso Independent School District. But I wanted a challenge. Therefore, I decided to work on a doctoral

degree in education. I applied to the Harvard Graduate School of Education and was accepted. I graduated as an historian of American education and with another specialization in curriculum and instruction. At Harvard it became apparent to me that what was helping me to soar through my classes at this Ivy League institution was the Catholic education that I received in first through the ninth grade.

After graduating from Harvard, I wanted to come back to Texas to be close to my family. I taught education classes at the University of Texas at the Permian Basin and later at the University of Texas at El Paso for twelve years. It was my desire to utilize the many years of work that I had accumulated as a teacher for future retirement.

Throughout my years at UTEP, I was still thinking about the sisters that taught me in elementary school. I realized that I wanted to thank them for the excellent education that I had received. As a result, in 2007, I wrote to the Los Angeles Diocese requesting their help in tracking down the sisters. Fortunately, the Diocese had the information that I needed. I wrote to the sisters and I was able to thank them for the excellent education that I received. I have been in communication with these sisters ever since, and it is this friendship that has spurred me on to help the sisters of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso and in remembrance and in honor of my dear aunt Antonia de Maria. What better way to express my

gratitude to our Catholic sisters as the result of a life-long respect and admiration for Catholic nuns than by creating an endowment that would help them financially to assist them in the performance of their ministries?

Today, there are several religious orders of sisters working in El Paso. Through their ministries, these sisters are doing God's work on a daily basis. Some of the sisters provide our children with religious instruction, while also teaching their students a strong and sound curriculum. In effect, these sisters are laying down a solid foundation that will enable their students to become successful and benevolent leaders of tomorrow. The Sisters of Father Yermo, for example, maintain a campus ministry that involves the students visiting the sick, singing for the elderly, and collecting funds for missions. The Sisters of Loretto are involved in providing healthcare and service to those in need and work with the migrants. The orders of sisters in our community are always on the go. That is why I chose to name an endowment with the Catholic Foundation the "Sisters in Action Fund."

I hope that this endowment can and will assist our sisters in doing the Lord's work. They can use some of the funds to attend or sponsor retreats that can enrich their own lives spiritually; but can also help them to gain additional knowledge about their ministries so that their work will become even more meaningful and beneficial to them but also to

the El Paso community.

Therefore, it is my goal to provide our sisters with the financial support necessary for them to be even more successful. I truly hope that my fellow Catholics of the El Paso Diocese will work with me in this endeavor and contribute financially to this endowment. The sisters touch our lives in so many ways, that it is impossible to enumerate all of them. They need our support.

What I remember the most about my aunt is her smile and her laughter. She was happy and enjoyed being a sister in the service of our Lord. My aunt died on May 24, 1997 at the age of 71.

I would like to thank the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso for giving me the opportunity to establish this endowment in my aunt's name. I know that she would be very happy with this gift. I have felt her spirit with me as I have gone through the process of creating this endowment and I would also like to thank all of the sisters who have touched my life as a child, and as an adult. You were always busy doing God's work. You were always "Sisters in Action."

*If you are interested in supporting the Sisters In Action Fund, please contact Catholic Foundation Major Gifts Officer, Tony Herrera at [therrera@catholicfoundationelpaso.org](mailto:therrera@catholicfoundationelpaso.org) or at (915) 872-8412.*

# Capital Campaign - Supporting the Work of Our Lady of the Valley Parish

By **Martha Marmolejo**,  
*Pledge Fulfillment, Specialist*

Our Lady of the Valley Parish began at St. Margaret's Home on Valdespino Road with the first Mass celebrated by the founding pastor, Monsignor Henry D. Buchanan on November 4, 1945, with 36 people in attendance.

The present church in Winchester Road was originally the West Ysleta Country Club and was purchased on November 24, 1945. The first Mass at this location was celebrated in what is now the parish hall, on an altar borrowed from St. Joseph Church on December 2, 1945 with 50 families present. The new church, originally named Our Lady of The Rosary, was completed and blessed on Easter Sunday in 1949. In January 1950, Monsignor Eugene B. Geary was appointed pastor and became the longest priest, caring for the faith community for more than 20 years

In July of 2020, Our Lady of the Valley launched the We Are the Body of Christ: Sharing our Gifts for the Church of Tomorrow Campaign, guided by the late Father Donald Adamski†, O.F.M. Conv.

Father Adamski†, was very positive to support the campaign by saying:

“Without the support of our parishioners and community, many parishes would not have the benefits of celebrating mass and sacraments locally”.

As the campaign progressed at the parish, Fr. Adamski† was very happy to have the funds from the parish share raised by Our Lady of the Valley through the Capital Campaign and he was able to start budgeting for their 75-year-old building maintenance. He started planning for



the repairs and painting of the exterior arches of the church and also had some areas on the outside of the church painted. These repairs were done just in time for the visit of his Superior General, Associate General, and his Provincial from Rome. Father Adamski† had other several projects in mind before he passed away in March of 2022.

After Father Adamski's passing, Deacon Ray Niblett took over the administration position of the parish and continued with the building maintenance. As of today, they have finished painting the outside of the church, the rectory's bedroom, the kitchen, fixed the security doors, improved the lighting in the church, repaired ceiling fans, and completed other needed repairs.

Deacon Ray has several projects to improve facilities that have been already authorized,

such as replacing the carpet and tiles and repainting the inside of the church. He is also working with the Diocesan Properties Manager, in hopes of fixing the school classrooms and turning them into religion formation meeting rooms.

Thank you, Deacon Ray Niblett, Father Christian Benitez, Sacramental Minister, and all parishioners and faithful community of Our Lady of the Valley Church, for all you do to support and enlighten the We Are the Body of Christ Campaign

and thanks to the inspiration and love of Father Don Adamski† for the Our Lady of the Valley parish community. It is certain that without their support, there would not be a parish to celebrate the Eucharist, Mass and our sacraments!

## Overall statistics of the We Are the Body of Christ as of June 9, 2023

**TOTAL PLEDGE: \$14,798,139**  
**TOTAL COLLECTED \$5,125,375**  
**BALANCE: \$9,672,764**

*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.*

## Campaña de Capital - Apoyando el trabajo de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora del Valle

Por **Martha Marmolejo**,  
*Especialista de Promesas*

La Parroquia de Nuestra Señora del Valle comenzó en el Hogar de Santa Margarita en Valdespino Road con la primera Misa celebrada por el pastor fundador, Monseñor Henry D. Buchanan el 4 de noviembre de 1945, con 36 personas en asistencia.

La iglesia actual en Winchester Road era originalmente el West Ysleta Country Club y fue comprada el 24 de noviembre de 1945. La primera misa en este lugar se celebró en lo que ahora es el salón parroquial, en un altar prestado de la Iglesia de San José el 2 de diciembre de 1945 con 50 familias presentes. La nueva iglesia, originalmente llamada Nuestra Señora del Rosario, fue terminada y bendecida el Domingo de Pascua de 1949. En enero de 1950, Monseñor Eugene B. Geary fue nombrado párroco y se convirtió en el sacerdote más longevo, cuidando de la comunidad de fe durante más de 20 años.

En julio de 2020, Nues-

tra Señora del Valle lanzó la campaña Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo: Compartiendo nuestros dones para la Iglesia del Mañana, guiada por el difunto Padre Donald Adamski†, O.F.M. Conv.

El Padre Adamski†, se mostró muy positivo al apoyar la campaña diciendo:

“Sin el apoyo de nuestros feligreses y comunidad, muchas parroquias no tendrían los beneficios de celebrar misa y sacramentos localmente”.

A medida que avanzaba la campaña en la parroquia, el P. Adamski† se alegró mucho de contar con los fondos de la cuota parroquial recaudados por Nuestra Señora del Valle a través de la Campaña de Capital y pudo empezar a presupuestar el mantenimiento de su edificio de 75 años de antigüedad. Empezó a planificar las reparaciones y la pintura de los arcos exteriores de la iglesia y también hizo pintar algunas zonas del exterior de la iglesia. Estas reparaciones se hicieron justo a tiempo para la visita de su Superior General, su General Asociado y su Provincial

de Roma. El Padre Adamski† tenía otros varios proyectos en mente antes de fallecer en marzo de 2022.

Después del fallecimiento del Padre Adamski, el Diácono Ray Niblett se hizo cargo de la administración de la parroquia y continuó con el mantenimiento del edificio. Hasta hoy, han terminado de pintar el exterior de la iglesia, el dormitorio de la rectoría, la cocina, arreglaron las puertas de seguridad, mejoraron la iluminación en la iglesia, rep-

araron los ventiladores de techo, y completaron otras reparaciones necesarias.

El Diácono Ray tiene varios proyectos para mejorar las instalaciones que ya han sido autorizados, como reemplazar la alfombra y los azulejos y repintar el interior de la iglesia. También está trabajando con el Administrador Diocesano de Propiedades, con la esperanza de arreglar las aulas de la escuela y convertirlas en salas de reuniones de formación religiosa.

Gracias, Diacono Ray Niblett, Padre Christian Benitez; Ministro Sacramental, y todos los feligreses y comunidad fiel de la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Valle, por todo lo que hacen para apoyar e iluminar la Campaña Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo y gracias a la inspiración y amor del Padre Don Adamski† por la comunidad parroquial de Nuestra Señora del Valle. Es cierto que sin su apoyo, ¡no habría parroquia para celebrar la Eucaristía, la Misa y nuestros sacramentos!

## Estadísticas generales de Somos El Cuerpo de Cristo a la fecha del 9 de Junio


**PROMESA TOTAL: \$14,798,139**  
**RECOLECTADO: \$5,125,375**  
**BALANCE: \$9,672,764**

*Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre el cumplimiento de su compromiso, no dude en comunicarse con Martha Marmolejo, especialista en cumplimiento de compromisos, para la Campaña Capital Somos El Cuerpo de Cristo, at 915-872-8412 ext. 137 o, por correo electrónico a mmarmolejo@elpasodiocese.org.*

## CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

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

ATHENS - THESSALONIKI - PHILIPPI - DELPHI  
 METEORA - CORINTH - MEKONOS - CRETE  
 EPHEBUS (HOUSE OF MARY) - SANTORINI +  
 Walk in the footsteps of St. Paul as we explore  
 the treasures and beauty of this magical country.  
**\$4,999** Includes R/T Air from El Paso  
 Based on Double Occupancy



## CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

**LAST CALL!** Father Ed Roden-Lucero - Holy Land  
**8 Day Pilgrimage**  
**October 18-25, 2023**

JERUSALEM - BETHLEHEM - MT. TABOR - CANA  
 HOLY SEPULCHER - Daily Masses  
 Renew your Marriage at Cana - Renew your Baptism  
 in the Jordan River. And so much more!  
**\$4,399** Includes R/T Air from El Paso  
 Based on Double Occupancy



## CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

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

Knock Shrine - Cliffs of Moher - Daily Mass  
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**\$4,799** from El Paso (INCLUDES AIR)  
 Based on Double Occupancy



## NEW! RIVER CRUISE

**PARIS - NORMANDY**  
**SEINE RIVER**  
**April 14 - 25, 2024**

Starting at **\$3,299** per person  
 PARIS - MONET'S HOME & GARDEN - HONFLEUF, AND MORE  
 Very Limited Space  
 Free DVD & Detailed Brochure Available



## OCEAN CRUISE

*Fr. Ben Flores - Mother Cabrini*  
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Bucket List Adventure  
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England - Brussels - Netherlands - Norway - Iceland  
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 8 Ports in 15 Days  
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 Nicaragua - Huatulco & Puerto Vallarta, Mexico  
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 From **\$1,419** Per Person




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