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NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

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100% CAPACITY WITH
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LIFE AS A MINOR
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CHARLES

STREET NAMED IN
HONOR OF QUEEN OF
PEACE PARISHIONER

Diocesan Newspaper Celebrates 30 year Anniversary

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

The first issue of the Rio Grande Catholic was published on May 1, 1991. Volume 1, Issue 1 included stories about the St. Stephen Parish worship hall ground-breaking on April 20, 1991 with Bishop Peña and Mayor Suzie Azar present to celebrate, Sister Rosella working hard with the Tigua Indian Ministry to evangelize, and a Thanksgiving service planned for the safe return of the Troops. It was the era of the Gulf War and Pope John Paul II's encyclical, "Centimus Annus", Latin for the Hundredth Year, "a powerful reinstatement of the church's social doctrine as an integral part of its proclamation of the Gospel", according to Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk of Cincinnati and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The price of the newspaper was \$.50.

The Rio Grande Catholic was founded by Bishop Raymundo J. Peña under the leadership of Communications Director Father Ed Roden-Lucero, JCL, D.Min., and Editor-in-Chief Steve Stewart. In 1996, Father Raúl Trigueros was appointed the communications director and in 1997 named Andy Sparke as the second editor-in-chief of the Rio Grande Catholic. He would serve faithfully for two decades. In 2015, Elizabeth O'Hara was named communications director and served for two years as the third editor-in-chief of the newspaper. The current editor of the Rio Grande Catholic is Diocese of El Paso Director of Communications Fernie Ceniceros, appointed by Bishop Mark J. Seitz in 2019.

"We are so overjoyed at this major milestone of our newspaper," Editor-in-Chief Fernie Ceniceros said. "It's amazing that the Rio Grande Catholic has been a staple in the homes of Catholics in the borderland for 30 years," he added.

The Rio Grande Catholic is the official newspaper of the Diocese of El Paso. The newspaper reaches 30,000 homes each month, is the official voice of the Bishop of El Paso, and informs the Catholic community about various diocesan events as well as national and worldwide Catholic Church news.

The newspaper brings the news (the Good News!) to the faithful in the Diocese of El Paso. In a world where so much has gone digital, the Rio Grande Catholic offers something tangible that you can read, enjoy, and keep. It's the telling and the sharing of the stories of the rich culture of the Diocese of El Paso that keeps our diocese connected and in touch with what's going on. Those stories include our clergy and religious, parishes, community leaders, and the editors



Bishop Mark J. Seitz and Editor-in-Chief, Fernie Ceniceros hold a copy of the first Rio Grande Catholic published in May 1991. The Rio Grande Catholic was founded by Bishop Raymundo J. Peña and then Communications Director Rev. Dr. Edward Roden-Lucero. *Photo by Lupe Augilera*

Pediódico Diocesano Celebra Su 30º Aniversario

Por Sofia Larkin
Oficial de Donaciones Mayores

El primer número de Rio Grande Catholic se publicó el 1 de mayo de 1991. El volumen 1, número 1, incluía historias sobre la inauguración del salón de culto de la Parroquia de San Esteban el 20 de abril de 1991 con la presencia del Obispo Peña y la Alcaldesa Suzie Azar para celebrar, la Hermana Rosella trabajando arduamente con el Ministerio Indígena Tigua para evangelizar, y un servicio de Acción de Gracias planeado para el regreso seguro de las Tropas. Era la época de la Guerra del Golfo y de la encíclica del Papa Juan Pablo II, "Centimus Annus", centenario en latín, "una poderosa reafirmación de la doctrina social de la iglesia como parte integral de su proclamación del Evangelio", según el Arzobispo Daniel Pilarczyk de Cincinnati y presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB). El precio del periódico era de 0,50 dólares.

El Rio Grande Catholic fue fundado por

el Obispo Raymundo J. Peña bajo el liderazgo del Director de Comunicaciones, Padre Ed Roden-Lucero, JCL, D.Min., y el Editor en Jefe Steve Stewart. En 1996, el Padre Raúl Trigueros fue nombrado director de comunicaciones y en 1997 nombró a Andy Sparke como el segundo editor en jefe del Rio Grande Catholic. Él serviría fielmente durante dos décadas. En 2015, Elizabeth O'Hara fue nombrada directora de comunicaciones y sirvió durante dos años como la tercera editora en jefe del periódico. El actual editor del Rio Grande Catholic es el Director de Comunicaciones de la Diócesis de El Paso, Fernie Ceniceros, nombrado por el Obispo Mark J. Seitz en 2019.

"Estamos muy contentos por este gran hito de nuestro periódico", dijo el editor en jefe Fernie Ceniceros. "Es increíble que el Rio Grande Catholic haya sido un elemento básico en los hogares de los católicos de la frontera durante 30 años", añadió.

El Rio Grande Catholic es el periódico oficial de la Diócesis de El Paso. El periódico llega a 30.000 hogares cada mes, es la

voz oficial del Obispo de El Paso, e informa a la comunidad católica sobre diversos eventos diocesanos, así como sobre las noticias nacionales y mundiales de la Iglesia Católica.

El periódico lleva las noticias (la Buena Noticia!) a los fieles de la Diócesis de El Paso. En un mundo en el que tanto se ha digitalizado, el Rio Grande Catholic ofrece algo tangible que se puede leer, disfrutar y conservar. Es el contar y compartir las historias de la rica cultura de la Diócesis de El Paso lo que mantiene a nuestra diócesis conectada y en contacto con lo que está sucediendo. Esas historias incluyen a nuestro clero y religiosos, parroquias, líderes de la comunidad y los propios editores.

Aunque el periódico diocesano ha tenido seis editores diferentes durante sus 30 años de existencia, el editor más antiguo del periódico fue el difunto Andy Sparke.

El nombre de Andy Sparke era sinónimo de Rio Grande Catholic. La carrera de Andy como periodista incluyó tareas de infor-

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EDITOR'S COLUMN - FERNIE CENICEROS

30 Years in the Making

In 2019, when I was brought on to work here at the Diocese of El Paso, occupying an office I hadn't stepped foot in almost 30 years was an incredibly surreal moment in my life. I remember asking the question, "How is this life?" The answer, of course, was yes, this is life!

Having the pleasure of serving as the editor of the Rio Grande Catholic over these last two years has been the honor of my life. I get to share a little of my life with so many of you as I work with this paper month to month. I also have the honor to serve as a custodian of those incredible journalists and professionals here before me.

Several things leave a mark on your life. When you see them again, they take you right back to a particular time. For me, the Rio Grande Catholic is one of



Fernie Ceniceros

those tangible things that when I got to go through the archives to see old issues, I was a teenager again! In this issue, I will tell how I came to serve as an intern back in 1994 for this newspaper.

When I was 16 years old, I had the fantastic pleasure to work for then Communications Director, Fr. Pedro Briseño,

Editor-in-Chief, Stephen Stewart, Graphic Designer, Patrick Stewart, and office manager, Anita Marta. They were the original team that I had the honor of volunteering for.

At the time, I was the editor of my high school paper, The Argus at Bel Air High School, and was looking for a way to pass my free time to stay out of trouble. Enter my Confirmation God Father, Father Ralph Solis, who contacted Fr. Pedro Briseño and Steve Stewart. After a brief interview, I was welcomed onto the team as an intern. My job at the time was simple, help layout the newspaper. It wasn't much different than what I was doing at the Argus at Bel Air High School.

I can remember how incredible and welcoming that team was to allow a skinny kid to help with such an important paper.

For four months, I got to work alongside them after school or whenever I could manage to help during holidays and the occasional weekend. Laying out a newspaper in those days was wildly different from today, mainly because we were physically laying out a newspaper on actual paper. Cutouts of articles and rubber cement to make the photocopy master for the printer. We did have computers for typesetting, but we could only layout a page and save two different Aldus Pagemaker files to one disk in those days. Like I said, wildly different in an age where someone could potentially put a newspaper together on their mobile smartphone.

I want to thank that original team for giving me my start in this world of journalism. I would also like to thank the following

Bishops, Priests, and professionals for their time working for this newspaper. Bishop Reymundo J. Peña, Bishop Armando X. Ochoa, Bishop Mark J. Seitz, Bishop John Stowe, The Late Fr. Richard Matty, Fr. Edward Roden-Lucero, Fr. Pedro Briseño, Fr. John Telles, Fr. Raul Trigueros, Fr. Wilson Cuevas, Fr. Marcus McFadin, Fr. Michael Lewis, Fr. Tony Celino, Fr. Benjamin Flores-Ruiz, Steven Stewart, Patrick Stewart, Anita Marta, Teresa Crowe, The Late Andy Sparke, Christ Chavez, The Late Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Elizabeth O'Hara, Joe Najera, Jo Jo Gracia, Nancy Ramos and Norma Muñoz. Thank you for your fantastic service to this paper. We could not have accomplished this milestone without anyone of you.

30 Años De Desarrollo

En 2019, cuando me trajeron a trabajar aquí en la Diócesis de El Paso, ocupar una oficina que no había pisado en casi 30 años fue un momento increíblemente surrealista en mi vida. Recuerdo que me pregunté: "¿Cómo es esta vida?". La respuesta, por supuesto, fue que sí, ¡esto es vida!

Tener el placer de servir como editor del Rio Grande Catholic durante estos dos últimos años ha sido el honor de mi vida. Tengo la oportunidad de compartir un poco de mi vida con muchos de ustedes mientras trabajo con este periódico mes a mes. También tengo el honor de servir como custodio de aquellos increíbles periodistas y profesionales que estuvieron aquí antes que yo.

Hay varias cosas que dejan huella en tu vida. Cuando las

vuelves a ver, te devuelven a un momento determinado. Para mí, el Rio Grande Catholic es una de esas cosas tangibles que, cuando pude revisar los archivos para ver los números antiguos, ¡volví a ser un adolescente! En este número, contaré cómo llegué a trabajar como pasante en 1994 para este periódico.

Cuando tenía 16 años, tuve el fantástico placer de trabajar para el entonces director de comunicaciones, el padre Pedro Briseño, el redactor jefe, Stephen Stewart, el diseñador gráfico, Patrick Stewart, y la encargada de la oficina, Anita Marta. Ellos fueron el equipo original para el que tuve el honor de ser voluntario.

En ese momento, yo era el editor del periódico de mi escuela secundaria, The Argus en Bel Air High School, y estaba buscando

una manera de pasar mi tiempo libre para mantenerse fuera de problemas. Mi padre de confirmación, el padre Ralph Solis, se puso en contacto con el padre Pedro Briseño y Steve Stewart. Después de una breve entrevista, me dieron la bienvenida al equipo como interno. Mi trabajo en ese momento era simple, ayudar a maquetar el periódico. No era muy diferente de lo que hacía en el Argus de la escuela secundaria de Bel Air.

Recuerdo lo increíble y acogedor que fue ese equipo al permitir que un chico delgado ayudara en un periódico tan importante. Durante cuatro meses, pude trabajar con ellos después de la escuela o cuando podía ayudar durante las vacaciones y algún fin de semana. La maquetación de un periódico en

aquella época era muy diferente a la de hoy, sobre todo porque la hacíamos físicamente en papel real. Recortes de artículos y cemento de goma para hacer el master de fotocopias para la impresora. Teníamos ordenadores para la composición, pero entonces sólo podíamos maquetar una página y guardar dos archivos diferentes de Aldus Pagemaker en un disco. Como ya he dicho, es muy diferente en una época en la que alguien puede montar un periódico en su teléfono móvil.

Quiero dar las gracias a ese equipo original por haberme iniciado en este mundo del periodismo. También quiero agradecer a los siguientes Obispos, Sacerdotes y profesionales por su tiempo de trabajo en este periódico. El Obispo Reymundo J. Peña,

el Obispo Armando X. Ochoa, el Obispo Mark J. Seitz, el Obispo John Stowe, el difunto P. Richard Matty, el P. Edward Roden-Lucero, el P. Pedro Briseño, el P. John Telles, el P. Raúl Trigueros, el P. Wilson Cuevas, el P. Marcus McFadin, el P. Michael Lewis, el P. Tony Celino, el P. Benjamín Flores y el P. José Luis. Tony Celino, P. Benjamín Flores-Ruiz, Steven Stewart, Patrick Stewart, Anita Marta, Teresa Crowe, el difunto Andy Sparke, Cristo Chávez, la difunta hermana Janet Gildea, SC, Elizabeth O'Hara, Joe Najera, Jo Jo Gracia, Nancy Ramos y Norma Muñoz. Gracias por su fantástico servicio a este periódico. No podríamos haber logrado este hito sin ninguno de ustedes.

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INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH

Happy Birthday Rio Grande Catholic

I can vaguely remember when as a 5 or 6 year old I learned how to read. Although I was a very active kid and loved to be outside playing games, I quickly came to love the quiet moments in my room or elsewhere when I could pick up a book and read. It opened up a whole new world with the help of my imagination. Reading became a way that I could pursue my curiosity about the world around and beyond me.

Stories of adventure, biographies of great saints and martyrs, books which brought me to undreamed of places and introduced me to the mysteries of science all caught my eye and welcomed me into their own enticing worlds. I also loved getting my hands on Maryknoll Magazine. Then there was also the Catholic Herald Citizen that

enticed me to explore its articles that introduced me to the people, the bishops, priests, sisters, the schools and other dynamic institutions of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Reading its pages helped me to grow in my sense of belonging to the Church where I grew up.

When I came to El Paso in 2013 I was very happy to learn that we had a great Catholic newspaper like the one that had welcomed me into the Church of Milwaukee when I was a kid. The editor at that time, Andy Sparke, brought his extensive journalistic experience and his love of the Church to bear on the Rio Grande Catholic for many years until his retirement. He was followed by gifted journalists such as Liz O'Hara, Nancy Morales, then Joe Najera, who

each brought their personal touch and shared with us their personal faith. They also helped us move forward into new means of communication giving us an online presence.

For the past couple of years our Communications office has been led by Fernando Ceniceros with the able assistance of Norma Muñoz. It now includes weekly Masses broadcast on local TV stations, a radio station with local programming, daily broadcasts on Facebook live, a channel on YouTube, and a presence on Twitter and Instagram. Still today, as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our Diocesan Catholic newspaper, the Rio Grande Catholic remains the anchor of our communications efforts.

In many senses communica-



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

tions are the heart of the work of the Church. Jesus told his disciples to go out and share the good news. That is what our communications ministry has been doing now here in the borderland for 30 years. Our newspaper has invited succeeding generations into a knowledge of the life of our local church, just as my Catholic newspaper did for me in

my youth. Let's take a moment this month to thank God for the many dedicated servants of God who contributed to this important work through the years and let us pray that this great ministry may continue sharing Good News for many years to come.

Feliz Cumpleaños Rio Grande Catholic

Recuerdo vagamente que cuando tenía 5 ó 6 años aprendí a leer. Aunque era un niño muy activo y me encantaba estar fuera jugando, pronto me encantaron los momentos de tranquilidad en mi habitación o en cualquier otro lugar cuando podía coger un libro y leer. Me abría todo un mundo nuevo con la ayuda de mi imaginación. La lectura se convirtió en una forma de perseguir mi curiosidad por el mundo que me rodeaba y me superaba.

Historias de aventuras, biografías de grandes santos y mártires, libros que me llevaban a lugares insospechados y me introducían en los misterios de la

ciencia, todo ello me llamaba la atención y me daba la bienvenida a sus propios y tentadores mundos. También me encantaba tener en mis manos la revista Maryknoll. También estaba el Catholic Herald Citizen, que me incitaba a explorar sus artículos que me presentaban a la gente, los obispos, los sacerdotes, las hermanas, las escuelas y otras instituciones dinámicas de la archidiócesis de Milwaukee. La lectura de sus páginas me ayudó a crecer en mi sentido de pertenencia a la Iglesia donde crecí.

Cuando llegué a El Paso en 2013 me alegró mucho saber que teníamos un gran periódico católico como el que me había

acogido la Iglesia de Milwaukee cuando era un niño. El editor de entonces, Andy Sparke, aportó su amplia experiencia periodística y su amor por la Iglesia al Rio Grande Catholic durante muchos años hasta su jubilación. Le siguieron periodistas de gran talento como Liz O'Hara, Nancy Morales y luego Joe Nájera, que aportaron su toque personal y compartieron con nosotros su fe personal. También nos ayudaron a avanzar hacia nuevos medios de comunicación dándonos una presencia en línea.

Desde hace un par de años nuestra oficina de comunicaciones ha sido dirigida por Fernando Ceniceros con la hábil

ayuda de Norma Muñoz. Ahora incluye la transmisión de misas semanales en las estaciones de televisión locales, una estación de radio con programación local, transmisiones diarias en Facebook live, un canal en YouTube y presencia en Twitter e Instagram. Todavía hoy, cuando celebramos el 30º aniversario de nuestro periódico católico diocesano, el Rio Grande Catholic sigue siendo el ancla de nuestros esfuerzos de comunicación.

En muchos sentidos, las comunicaciones están en el corazón del trabajo de la Iglesia. Jesús dijo a sus discípulos que salieran y compartieran las buenas noticias. Eso es lo que

nuestro ministerio de comunicación ha estado haciendo aquí en la frontera durante 30 años. Nuestro periódico ha invitado a las generaciones sucesivas a conocer la vida de nuestra iglesia local, al igual que mi periódico católico lo hizo para mí en mi juventud. Tomemos un momento este mes para dar gracias a Dios por los muchos siervos de Dios dedicados que han contribuido a esta importante labor a lo largo de los años y recemos para que este gran ministerio siga compartiendo la Buena Nueva durante muchos años.

El Ministerio Diocesano de Paz y Justicia

CONGRATULATES the Rio Grande Catholic

for its **30 years of service** al Pueblo de Dios en la Diocese of El Paso

The Peace and Justice Ministry mission in the Diocese of El Paso is primarily to help engage the faithful Catholic within the diocese to respond to the many social injustice issues afflicting our borderland region by acting at the local, state, national, and global levels through diocesan trainings, programs, and projects.

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Diocese of El Paso Enters 100% Capacity with Mask Mandate

With the numbers of active cases at encouraging new lows and the numbers of vaccinated people increasing promisingly, the churches of the Diocese of El Paso opened to diocesan faithful at 100% capacity on June 1, 2021.

The protocols that became effective on June 1st are:

- The capacity for church gatherings is increased to 100%, but masks must be worn by all members of the assembly and everyone should sanitize their

hands when entering the church.

- Because churches are places of close gathering indoors where singing and vocal responses are common, churches will continue to require the wearing of masks.

- The vaccine is safe, effective, and the best way to protect yourself and others from Covid-19. Bishop Mark joins Pope Francis, the Vatican curia, and the bishops of the United States in wholeheartedly urging every eligible person to become vaccinated as soon as they can.

Having learned what is most helpful in preventing the transmission of the coronavirus, which spreads as airborne droplets, churches are no longer required to sanitize pews after each liturgy, or check temperatures as people enter. Social distancing markers, like those for the Communion procession, are similarly no longer necessary. The water for baptizing multiple children or adults can be from the same font, and the customary method of anoint-

ing at Confirmation (using one vessel of Chrism without an instrument) can resume.

- Since the source of airborne droplets is the nose and mouth, some pandemic-related protocols will continue for now. Communion may only be received in the hand, a manner that is reverent and part of the long-standing tradition of the Church, and only in the form of the Body of Christ (the host), not the shared chalice. Holy water fonts that contain stand-

ing water, like those at church entrances, are also not yet permitted.

The Diocese continues to pray for a prompt end to the pandemic, as well as for all those who have died from this disease. But we also pray for the patience to endure what we hope are the waning months of pandemic-related restrictions, as well as for the courage to perform everyday acts of Christian charity to keep each other healthy.

La Diócesis Alcanza El 100% Capacidad Mandato De Cubre Bocas

Con las cifras de casos activos en nuevos y alentadores mínimos y el número de personas vacunadas aumentando de forma prometedora, las iglesias de la Diócesis de El Paso se abrieron a los fieles diocesanos al 100% de su capacidad el 1 de junio de 2021.

Los protocolos que entraron en vigor el 1 de junio son:

- El aforo de las reuniones en las iglesias se incrementa al 100%, pero todos los miembros de la asamblea deben llevar mascarilla y todos deben higienizarse

las manos al entrar en la iglesia.

- Dado que las iglesias son lugares de reunión cerrados donde es habitual cantar y responder con la voz, las iglesias seguirán exigiendo el uso de mascarillas.

- La vacuna es segura, eficaz y la mejor manera de protegerse a sí mismo y a los demás de Covid-19. El obispo Mark se une al Papa Francisco, a la curia vaticana y a los obispos de los Estados Unidos para instar de todo corazón a todas las personas que reúnan los requisitos para vacunarse tan pronto como

puedan.

- Habiendo aprendido lo que es más útil para prevenir la transmisión del coronavirus, que se propaga en forma de gotas en el aire, las iglesias ya no están obligadas a desinfectar los bancos después de cada liturgia, ni a comprobar la temperatura al entrar la gente. Tampoco son necesarios los marcadores de distanciamiento social, como los de la procesión de la comunión. El agua para bautizar a varios niños o adultos puede provenir de la misma pila, y se puede reanudar

el método habitual de unción en la Confirmación (utilizando un solo vaso de crisma sin instrumento).

- Dado que la fuente de gotitas en el aire es la nariz y la boca, algunos protocolos relacionados con la pandemia continuarán por ahora. La comunión sólo puede recibirse en la mano, una manera reverente y que forma parte de la antigua tradición de la Iglesia, y sólo en la forma del Cuerpo de Cristo (la hostia), no en el cáliz compartido. Las pilas de agua bendita que contienen

agua estancada, como las que se encuentran en las entradas de las iglesias, tampoco están todavía permitidas.

La Diócesis sigue rezando por el pronto fin de la pandemia, así como por todos los que han muerto a causa de esta enfermedad. Pero también rezamos por la paciencia para soportar lo que esperamos sean los últimos meses de restricciones relacionadas con la pandemia, así como por el valor de realizar actos cotidianos de caridad cristiana para mantenernos sanos unos a otros.

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themselves.

While the diocesan newspaper has seen six different editors during its 30-year tenure, the longest standing editor of the paper was the late Andy Sparke.

Andy Sparke's name was synonymous with the Rio Grande Catholic. Andy's career as a journalist included reporting and editing duties at the Cincinnati Enquirer, El Paso Times, El Paso Herald-Post, Southwest Catholic Register, and the Rio Grande Catholic. He also

served as the El Paso correspondent for the Wall Street Journal, and authored and self-published non-fiction books.

On July 11, 2013, Andy covered the installation of Bishop Mark J. Seitz for the National Catholic Reporter. He said, "Bishop Mark Seitz promised to lead his flock into a new century characterized by the new evangelization as he was installed as bishop of the nearly 100-year-old diocese of El Paso. In a homily presented in both English and Spanish, Seitz addressed more than 4,000 people

who attended the installation Mass Tuesday in the grand hall of the El Paso Convention and Performing Arts Center."

After 60 years of marriage, Andy and his wife, Lupe (Pita), devoted to their Catholic faith and their family, left this life the way they lived it: together. Lupe died peacefully on July 9, 2020, and Andy followed his beloved bride the following day, July 10.

"Mr. Sparke left an indelible mark on this publication and I hope that we can continue serving the faithful of the diocese with

the same zeal that Andy served the faithful throughout his time with the newspaper, current editor Fernie Ceniceros said. "I hope that this publication can continue to honor his service, as well as the service of all of us who have had the honor of serving here at the diocesan newspaper, he ended.

News and newspapers are social gathering spaces. They give us perspective, keep us informed and current on the news in the Diocese of El Paso and the world, serve as a witness to our faith, and remind us that we are part of a larger fam-

ily. On behalf of the Rio Grande Catholic, we want to thank you for 30 years and for your continued support. Keep reading!

The Rio Grande Catholic is located at the Diocese of El Paso Pastoral Center, 499 St. Matthews Street, Building B. Contact Editor-in-Chief Fernie Ceniceros at 915-872-8400 or communications@elpasodiocese.org with any questions. Feel free to submit ideas for articles.

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mación y edición en el Cincinnati Enquirer, El Paso Times, El Paso Herald-Post, Southwest Catholic Register y el Rio Grande Catholic. También fue corresponsal en El Paso para el Wall Street Journal, y fue autor y autopublicador de libros de no ficción.

El 11 de julio de 2013, Andy cubrió la instalación del obispo Mark J. Seitz para el National Catholic Reporter. Dijo: "El obispo Mark

Seitz prometió guiar a su rebaño hacia un nuevo siglo caracterizado por la nueva evangelización al ser instalado como obispo de la casi centenaria diócesis de El Paso. En una homilia presentada tanto en inglés como en español, Seitz se dirigió a más de 4,000 personas que asistieron a la misa de instalación el martes en el gran salón del Centro de Convenciones y Artes Escénicas de El Paso".

Después de 60 años de matrimonio, Andy y su esposa, Lupe (Pita),

dedicados a su fe católica y a su familia, dejaron esta vida como la vivieron: juntos. Lupe murió en paz el 9 de julio de 2020, y Andy siguió a su amada esposa al día siguiente, el 10 de julio.

"El Sr. Sparke dejó una marca indeleble en esta publicación y espero que podamos seguir sirviendo a los fieles de la diócesis con el mismo celo con el que Andy sirvió a los fieles durante todo el tiempo que estuvo en el periódico, dijo el actual editor Fernie Ceniceros.

"Espero que esta publicación pueda seguir honrando su servicio, así como el servicio de todos los que hemos tenido el honor de servir aquí en el periódico diocesano, finalizó.

Las noticias y los periódicos son espacios de encuentro social. Nos dan perspectiva, nos mantienen informados y al día sobre las noticias de la Diócesis de El Paso y del mundo, sirven como testimonio de nuestra fe, y nos recuerdan que somos parte de una familia más

grande. En nombre de Rio Grande Catholic, queremos agradecerles por los 30 años y por su continuo apoyo. ¡Siga leyendo!

The Rio Grande Catholic se encuentra en el Centro Pastoral de la Diócesis de El Paso, 499 St. Matthews Street, Edificio B. Póngase en contacto con el editor jefe Fernie Ceniceros en el 915-872-8400 o communications@elpasodiocese.org con cualquier pregunta. Siéntase libre de enviar ideas para artículos.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

Fr. Faustino Ortiz-Suarez, MNM
Fr. Jose Mesa, SJ
Fr. Jesus Antonio Quintana (OAR)

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Fr. William J. Donnelly, MM	6/12/65
Fr. Manuel R. Martinez (Extern)	6/24/66
Fr. Lazaro Gonzalez, OFM	6/23/68
Fr. Raul Trigueros	6/13/69
Fr. Sam Rosales, SJ	6/9/73
Fr. Fernando Mendoza Laguna, OFM	6/29/74
Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas	6/11/76
Msgr. David G. Fierro	6/19/76
Fr. Jose Vera-Perez, OFM	6/29/78
Fr. Rogelio H. Rayas, OSM	6/16/79
Fr. Jorge M. Palacio, OSM	6/24/79
Fr. Salvador Aguilera	6/8/84
Fr. Michael J. Gallagher	6/9/84
Fr. Richard Sotelo, SJ	6/6/87
Rev. Jaems W. Kofski, MM	6/1/91
Fr. James Marcus McFadin	6/13/92
Fr. Rolando Fonseca	6/13/94

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Fr. Jose Emilio Flores, OFM	6/29/96
Fr. Anthony C. Celino	6/6/97
Fr. Edilberto "Beto" Lopez	6/6/97
Fr. Miguel Angel Sanchez	6/6/98
Fr. Jose Alfredo Ramirez, OFM	6/29/99
Fr. Gerardo Francisco Salgado, OFM	6/29/99
Fr. Edward Szendrey, MM	6/10/00
Fr. Juan Francisco Figueroa Moran, OFM	6/27/02
Fr. Fabian A. Marquez	6/29/04
Fr. Juan Manuel Heredia Hernandez, OFM	6/30/07
Fr. Andres Sosa Medellin, OFM	6/30/07
Fr. Valentín Cota, MNM	6/19/09
Fr. Jose Alberto Morales	6/19/10
Fr. Saul Pacheco	6/19/10
Fr. Jose Morales Feregrino, OFM	6/30/10
Fr. Mariano H. Lopez	6/29/11
Fr. Mark N.P. Sala	6/29/11
Fr. German Alzate-Agudelo	6/28/18
Fr. Victorino Lorezca	6/28/18
Fr. Ivan Montelongo	6/19/20
RETIRED ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES	
Fr. Wallace Blake Fry	6/29/07



From Haiti to El Paso: Bishop Seitz ordains Fr. Wilbert Colas

By Rev. Michael Lewis, STL
Special to the Rio Grande

The Chihuahuan Desert is not anything like the Caribbean. But that didn't stop Wilbert Colas from following God's call across the continent to become a priest for the Diocese of El Paso.

At a Mass on June 4 at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Bishop Mark Seitz ordained Colas as the diocese's newest priest, culminating a vocational journey that began in his home country of Haiti, and went through Costa Rica and Wisconsin before ending in his new home of El Paso.

"When Jesus sent his disciples, he asked them to go and bring the Good News to everybody," Colas said. "If God brought me here, it is because he knew, and he still knows, that I will be able to help people here."

Before joining the Diocese of El Paso as a seminarian six years ago, Colas studied for a time at a seminary in Costa Rica. After a year at St. Charles Seminary in El Paso, Colas then spent several years in formation at the Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology outside of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"It takes a lot of courage to leave your country, to leave your



At a Mass on June 4 at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Bishop Mark Seitz ordained Colas as the diocese's newest priest, culminating a vocational journey that began in his home country of Haiti, and went through Costa Rica and Wisconsin before ending in his new home of El Paso. Photo by Fernie Ceniceros

family and everything behind, to serve in a different culture," said Fr. John Telles, the diocese's director of seminarians. "You have to adapt and learn. And, El Paso is very unique because it's not just one language and one custom, it's several. So you have to admire him for doing that."

Telles also lauded Colas' gift

for evangelization. "Pope Paul VI said that was the vocation of the entire Church, and Father Wilbert has that as is his priority," he said.

Colas said he was eager to begin his priestly work, but also to be guided in his ministry by the very people he was ordained to serve.

"I'm excited because it will be a new challenge for me," he said. "I think the best way is not to show people that I know everything, but to work with them, to learn from them, and hopefully they can learn from me too. I will be a teacher for them, but they will be a teacher for me as well. I think that's the best way to help

people in the heart to do God's work."

Colas was grateful to Bishop Seitz, who welcomed him in his first year as bishop of El Paso. He was also thankful for the help of Fr. Miguel Angel Sanchez, who as director of vocations and director of seminarians, invited Colas to El Paso in the first place, then guided his first years of formation.

Telles said that, though God called Colas from Haiti to become a priest in El Paso, God is also calling local young men and women to devote their lives in his service.

"Young people are looking for something to give their lives to. We have to reach out to them," Telles said. "I think the more we evangelize our people, the more that they will be inspired to serve — especially young men in the priesthood and young women in religious life."

Those who follow God's call into the priesthood will have a good example to follow in Colas, Telles said.

"He will be a big blessing for the diocese; he really will," he said. "He's very committed to the Church, and I think Fr. Wilbert is going to be a very good priest."

De Haití A El Paso: El Obispo Seitz Ordenará Al P. Wilbert Colas

Por Rev. Michael Lewis, STL
Especial a el Rio Grande

El desierto de Chihuahua no se parece en nada al Caribe. Pero eso no impidió que Wilbert Colas siguiera la llamada de Dios a través del continente para convertirse en sacerdote de la Diócesis de El Paso.

En una misa celebrada el 4

de junio en la Catedral de San Patricio, el Obispo Mark Seitz ordenó a Colas como el más reciente sacerdote de la diócesis, culminando un viaje vocacional que comenzó en su país natal, Haití, y pasó por Costa Rica y Wisconsin antes de terminar en su nuevo hogar de El Paso.

"Cuando Jesús envió a sus discípulos, les pidió que fueran

a llevar la Buena Nueva a todo el mundo", dijo Colas. "Si Dios me trajo aquí, es porque sabía, y sigue sabiendo, que podré ayudar a la gente aquí".

Antes de entrar en la Diócesis de El Paso como seminarista hace seis años, Colas estudió durante un tiempo en un seminario de Costa Rica. Despues de un año en el Seminario San Carlos Borromeo de El Paso, Colas pasó varios años de formación en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología del Sagrado Corazón, en las afueras de Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"Se necesita mucho valor para dejar tu país, para dejar tu familia y todo atrás, para servir en una cultura diferente", dijo el padre John Telles, director de seminaristas de la diócesis. "Hay que adaptarse y aprender. Y, El Paso es muy singular porque no es sólo una lengua y una costumbre, son varias. Así que hay que admirarlo por hacerlo".

Telles también alabó el don

de Colas para la evangelización. "El Papa Pablo VI dijo que esa era la vocación de toda la Iglesia, y el padre Wilbert tiene eso como su prioridad", dijo.

Colas dijo que estaba entusiasmado por comenzar su labor sacerdotal, pero también por ser guiado en su ministerio por las mismas personas para las que dediquen sus vidas a su servicio.

"Estoy emocionado porque será un nuevo reto para mí", dijo. "Creo que la mejor manera no es mostrar a la gente que lo sé todo, sino trabajar con ellos, aprender de ellos, y espero que ellos puedan aprender de mí también. Seré un maestro para ellos, pero ellos también lo serán para mí. Creo que esa es la mejor manera de ayudar a la gente de corazón a hacer la obra de Dios".

Colas se mostró agradecido al obispo Seitz, que le acogió en su primer año como obispo de El Paso. También agradeció la ayuda del P. Miguel Ángel Sánchez, que como director de vocaciones

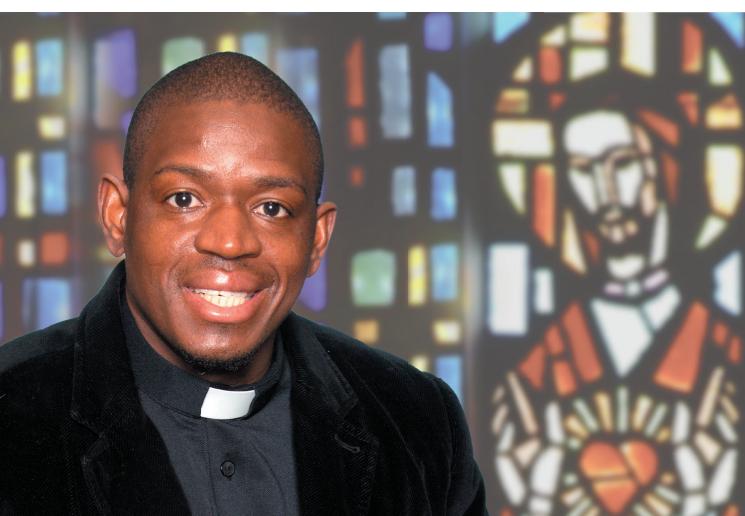
y director de seminaristas, invitó a Colas a El Paso en primer lugar, y luego guió sus primeros años de formación.

Telles dijo que, aunque Dios llamó a Colas desde Haití para convertirse en sacerdote en El Paso, Dios también está llamando a jóvenes locales para que dediquen sus vidas a su servicio.

"Los jóvenes están buscando algo a lo que dedicar sus vidas. Tenemos que llegar a ellos", dijo Telles. "Creo que cuanto más evangelicemos a nuestra gente, más se inspirarán para servir - especialmente los hombres jóvenes en el sacerdocio y las mujeres jóvenes en la vida religiosa".

Aquellos que sigan la llamada de Dios al sacerdocio tendrán en Colas un buen ejemplo a seguir, dijo Telles.

"Será una gran bendición para la diócesis; realmente lo será", dijo. "Está muy comprometido con la Iglesia, y creo que el padre Wilbert va a ser un muy buen sacerdote".



Congratulations ON YOUR Ordination

We celebrate the ordination of Rev. Wilbert Colas, who completed his Master of Divinity degree May 7 at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. May his ministry for the Diocese of El Paso be blessed! Sacred Heart is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Bishop Seitz in the formation of men for priesthood.



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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.

Communion In The Hand A Reverent, Ancient Tradition

By Fr. Michael L. Lewis, STL
Special to the Rio Grande

When the pandemic emerged abruptly more than a year ago, bishops around the world instituted several prudent changes to how we celebrate the sacraments in an effort to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in our churches. Of these, how we receive Communion — normally, the Church allows it to be received in the hand or on the tongue — has become a particular point of consternation since, as a pandemic precaution, Communion may currently only be distributed in the hand. Some insist, however, that receiving the Body of Christ in this way is somehow irreverent and refuse to receive Communion unless it is on the tongue. But this assertion belies not only the teaching of the Church and centuries of Church tradition and practice, it also ignores Christ's own words when he instituted the Eucharist.

Firstly, it's important to understand the Church's teaching on how Communion can be distributed. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), the set of instructions that detail

how Mass should be celebrated, allows Communion to be distributed either on the tongue or in the hand. Both methods are approved by the Church, and neither is mentioned as being holier or more reverent than the other. The GIRM also stresses that, normally, it is the choice of the communicant how he or she wishes to receive the Body of Christ. Some argue that this entitles a person to demand to receive Communion according to their preference, even amid a global pandemic. However, this perspective ignores the duty of bishops to pastor their flock in a manner that safeguards the common good, especially when faced with exceptional set of circumstances like a pandemic.

This duty led to bishops temporarily adapting our liturgical practices during the pandemic to ensure that the Church's sacraments would not become vectors for disease. These adaptations neither affected the validity of the sacraments, nor did they reduce the reverence shown through them. Rather, in regard to Communion, it simply limited the manner of how it can be distributed during the pandemic

to one of the two Church-approved ways. The Vatican has confirmed that bishops have both the authority and responsibility to make such liturgical adaptations when faced with emergency and extraordinary circumstances, and the pandemic is undoubtedly both.

Some argue that Communion in the hand was an innovation advanced after the Second Vatican Council, upending centuries of tradition. But this ignores the Church's actual history. Though for hundreds of years before Vatican II, Communion was only offered to the faithful on their tongues, for hundreds of years before that, it was only offered in the hand.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem describes the common practice in a homily he gave in the year 348 to the recently baptized: "Coming up to receive, therefore, do not approach with your wrists extended or your fingers splayed, but making your left hand a throne for the right (for it is about to receive a King) and cupping your palm, so receive the Body of Christ; and answer: 'Amen.'"

Indeed, the practice went

unchanged until about the 9th or 10th century, when Communion began to be distributed on the tongue in parts of Western Europe. Scholars believe the reason was not because it was more reverent, but because it was more sanitary — the medieval laity didn't often wash their hands. But the change in practice happened at the same time another phenomenon emerged: the gradual estrangement of lay people from Communion, for it was believed that very few people were worthy enough to consume the Eucharist. Over time, the "tongue" practice and the "unworthy" belief became intertwined, engendering the mistaken theory that hands are not worthy to touch the Body of Christ.

Yet it is Christ himself who says otherwise. Recall his words when instituting the Eucharist at the Last Supper: "Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'" Jesus gives two separate imperatives: take and eat. Both are theologically important, for the action of taking what Christ gives is an act of faith,

a declaration of our desire, our free assent to receiving and communing with the Lord. The action of eating is how we then actually enter into communion with Christ, an act which imparts divine grace, forgives our venial sins, and unites us to God. The separate imperatives are rich in meaning, but also historically accurate, for the disciples received the first Eucharist in the same manner they had consumed the rest of the meal: by taking into their hands and then eating the food that Jesus gave them.

Before the pandemic and, we pray, soon when the pandemic threat has passed, the Church allows us to choose our preference: Communion on the tongue or in the hand. That we even have the option underscores that both are reverent, and both are part of the Church's long tradition. To argue otherwise not only ignores Church teaching and history, it sows division and disunity around the very sacrament that celebrates our communion with Christ and each other.

Comunión En La Mano Una Tradición Antigua Y Reverente

Por P. Michael L. Lewis, STL
Especial a el Rio Grande

Cuando la pandemia surgió bruscamente hace más de un año, los obispos de todo el mundo instituyeron varios cambios prudentes en la forma de celebrar los sacramentos en un esfuerzo por evitar la propagación del coronavirus en nuestras iglesias. Entre ellos, la forma de recibir la Comunión -normalmente, la Iglesia permite que se reciba en la mano o en la lengua- se ha convertido en un punto de particular consternación, ya que, como precaución ante la pandemia, actualmente sólo se puede distribuir la Comunión en la mano. Algunos insisten, sin embargo, en que recibir el Cuerpo de Cristo de esta manera es de algún modo irreverente y se niegan a recibir la Comunión si no es en la lengua. Pero esta afirmación no sólo contradice la enseñanza de la Iglesia y siglos de tradición y práctica eclesiástica, sino que también ignora las propias palabras de Cristo cuando instituyó la Eucaristía.

En primer lugar, es importante entender la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre cómo se puede distribuir la Comunión. La Instrucción General del Misal

Romano (IGMR), el conjunto de instrucciones que detallan cómo debe celebrarse la Misa, permite que la Comunión se distribuya en la lengua o en la mano. Ambos métodos están aprobados por la Iglesia, y ninguno se menciona como más santo o reverente que el otro. El GIRM también subraya que, normalmente, es la elección del comulgante cómo desea recibir el Cuerpo de Cristo. Algunos argumentan que esto da derecho a una persona a exigir recibir la Comunión según su preferencia, incluso en medio de una pandemia mundial. Sin embargo, esta perspectiva ignora el deber de los obispos de pastorear su rebaño de manera que se salvaguarde el bien común, especialmente cuando se enfrentan a una serie de circunstancias excepcionales como una pandemia.

Este deber llevó a los obispos a adaptar temporalmente nuestras prácticas litúrgicas durante la pandemia para garantizar que los sacramentos de la Iglesia no se convirtieran en vectores de la enfermedad. Estas adaptaciones no afectaron a la validez de los sacramentos, ni redujeron la reverencia mostrada a través de ellos. Más bien, en lo que respecta a la Comunión, simplemente se limitó

la manera de distribuirla durante la pandemia a una de las dos formas aprobadas por la Iglesia. El Vaticano ha confirmado que los obispos tienen tanto la autoridad como la responsabilidad de hacer tales adaptaciones litúrgicas cuando se enfrentan a circunstancias de emergencia y extraordinarias, y la pandemia es sin duda ambas cosas.

Algunos argumentan que la comunión en la mano fue una innovación avanzada después del Concilio Vaticano II, rompiendo siglos de tradición. Pero esto ignora la historia real de la Iglesia. Aunque durante cientos de años antes del Vaticano II, la Comunión sólo se ofrecía a los fieles en la lengua, durante cientos de años antes de eso, sólo se ofrecía en la mano.

San Cirilo de Jerusalén describe la práctica común en una homilía que pronunció en el año 348 a los recién bautizados: "Subiendo a recibir, por tanto, no os acerquéis con las muñecas extendidas ni con los dedos separados, sino que haciendo de vuestra mano izquierda un trono para la derecha (pues está a punto de recibir a un Rey) y ahuecando la palma de la mano, recibid así el Cuerpo de Cristo; y responded: 'Amén'".

De hecho, la práctica se mantuvo sin cambios hasta aproximadamente el siglo IX o X, cuando la Comunión comenzó a distribuirse en la lengua en algunas partes de Europa Occidental. Los estudiosos creen que la razón no fue porque fuera más reverente, sino porque era más higiénico: los laicos medievales no solían lavarse las manos. Pero el cambio de práctica se produjo al mismo tiempo que surgió otro fenómeno: el alejamiento gradual de los laicos de la Comunión, pues se creía que muy pocas personas eran lo suficientemente dignas para consumir la Eucaristía. Con el tiempo, la práctica de la "lengua" y la creencia de "indignidad" se entrelazaron, engendrando la teoría errónea de que las manos no son dignas de tocar el Cuerpo de Cristo.

Sin embargo, es el propio Cristo quien dice lo contrario. Recordemos sus palabras al instituir la Eucaristía en la Última Cena: "Jesús tomó el pan, pronunció la bendición, lo partió y, dándolo a sus discípulos, dijo: 'Tomad y comed, esto es mi cuerpo'". Jesús da dos imperativos distintos: tomad y comed. Ambos son teológicamente importantes, porque la acción de tomar lo que Cristo da

es un acto de fe, una declaración de nuestro deseo, nuestro libre asentimiento a recibir y comulgar con el Señor. La acción de comer es el modo en que entramos realmente en comunión con Cristo, un acto que imparte la gracia divina, perdona nuestros pecados veniales y nos une a Dios. Los imperativos separados son ricos en significado, pero también históricamente precisos, ya que los discípulos recibieron la primera Eucaristía de la misma manera que habían consumido el resto de la comida: tomando en sus manos y luego comiendo el alimento que Jesús les dio.

Antes de la pandemia y, rezamos, pronto cuando la amenaza pandémica haya pasado, la Iglesia nos permite elegir nuestra preferencia: Comunión en la lengua o en la mano. El hecho de que tengamos siquiera la opción subraya que ambas son reverentes, y que ambas forman parte de la larga tradición de la Iglesia. Argumentar lo contrario no sólo ignora la enseñanza y la historia de la Iglesia, sino que siembra la división y la desunión en torno al mismo sacramento que celebra nuestra comunión con Cristo y con los demás.

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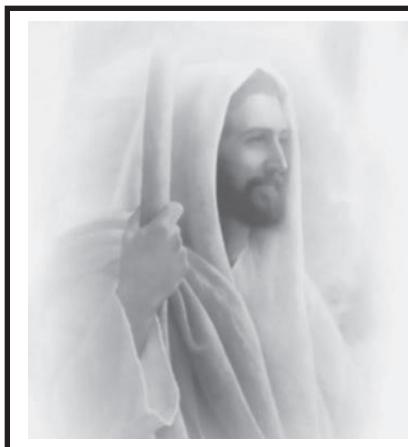
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Saturday 3rd and 4th Saturday 10 am -1pm

Saturday 5 - 6

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

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Search No Further



Janet M. Crowe

"If Mom ain't happy, ain't nobody happy. But if Grandma ain't happy, Run!"

I saw that saying written on a t-shirt recently and couldn't help myself. I laughed right out loud. Fortunately, no one else was nearby to give me the odd looks that I sometimes attract.

After I added the t-shirt to my wish list of hints to give to my husband, I began searching for a similar type of statements for fathers. Of course, there were the clichés that everyone thinks most fathers say to their children, such as, "Everyone is NOT doing it, because YOU are not." Some truisms were paraphrased from Proverbs, "If you are too lazy to plow, don't expect a harvest." As a retired teacher, I wish I had

thought of that one to use with my students.

"Treat people when you don't need them in the way you wish you had treated them when you do need them." While that one takes a moment to fully comprehend, it is as valuable a directive as the Golden Rule from which it was derived.

However, many fatherhood maxims were heartfelt messages about how great dads can be.

"Any man can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a Dad." So very true!

"Small boys become big men through the influence of true men who care about small boys." Yes, a true man is so much more than simply an adult male.

"My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me." This one was one of my favorites. I hope that our children took to heart the loving faith we had in each of them not only to be the best they could be but to believe that they are amazing people in their own right because they are precious children of God, our Heavenly Father, who

makes living masterpieces.

"My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived and let me watch him do it." Of course, all good fathers know that they are role models for their children. Kids may not seem to be listening to what a parent says and they certainly often tend to ignore when we are trying to show them the proper way to act, but their little eyes and ears are always attentive to what their parents do, especially when we wish they wouldn't. Role models are always on duty, there is no time off or vacation time. It is often in our worst moments that our children learn the biggest lessons.

Then there was my favorite one of all, a true motto to live by and a directive which all fathers – all people – should take to heart. "A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child."

I'm sure this is the motto that God had in mind when He chose the humble man named Joseph to be the earthly father of His only Son.

Yet, what happened when God chose that ordinary man to be

the head of the Holy Family's household, the spouse of the mother of God's Son, the role model for the Child of God, the earthly father of Jesus?

Joseph, the carpenter, had been successfully operating his own business in Nazareth. He was satisfying his duty to his own parents to care for them in their old age. He was betrothed to be married to a sweet young woman in the town. Life was busy. Life was orderly. Life was good.

Then, it wasn't. Joseph's life fell apart. Everything that he knew and expected had been turned upside down. By responding to God's call, He left his home, his family, his town, his business, his orderly life, to go where God directed him to go, to protect his wife and her child, to raise the child as his own, and to provide the best life he could for the Son of God. Wow! What person would willingly take on that type of responsibility?

Every father accepts that responsibility, knowingly or not. However, while parenthood isn't always easy, it does have

the very best rewards. A baby's smile, a child's hug, the realization that the teenager actually took to heart some of the lessons we tried to teach, the pride in our hearts that our children are successfully handling the daily trials of their own adult lives – these are just a few of the multitude of rewards of fatherhood.

Search no further for an ideal motto because there is no ideal motto for fatherhood to write upon a t-shirt. There is only the love that is inscribed in a father's heart and soul as he realizes that his children have learned from him almost as much as he has learned from them. Good fathers remember that they are role models for their children. Great fathers remember that they must model their vocation of fatherhood after that of Our Heavenly Father and also after the example of the father God chose for His Own Son. In doing so, fathers have the perfect role models to mirror that Love for their children.

Happy Father's Day to all the Dads who reflect the love of God in their families.

2022 & 2023 (So Far)

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By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

El Paso street signs tell great stories. Hawkins was named for the Hawkins Family, owners of Hawkins Dairy, Morehead after the pioneer banker who established State National Bank in 1881, and Ange, angel in French, the wife of Dr. J.A. McKinney, a prominent citizen of the 1880's. One of the newest streets in our community is Elsa Maldonado Lane. Her story is inspiring.

Elsa was born in El Paso on October 12, 1956. She attended Blessed Sacrament School, graduated from Loretto Academy in 1974, and was a 1977 Honors graduate of The University of Texas at El Paso. She was the only child in her family to attend Catholic school all the way through high school. Nuns had a profound effect on Elsa, so much so that she considered becoming a religious sister. She would eventually choose marriage and motherhood, but used her extraordinary spiritual gifts to lead and heal others her entire life. Elsa met her soul mate, Victor, in 1973 at Furr's Supermarket at Hondo Pass and Dyer (named



On Saturday, May 22, Father Edilberto "Beto" López, pastor of St. Pius X Parish and family friend, blessed Elsa Maldonado Lane. *Photo Courtesy of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso*

for John L. Dyer, a lawyer, City Attorney, and Secretary for the Grandview Realty Company). It was a match made in heaven and their union would last 39 years.

As a parishioner of Queen of Peace, Elsa was active, led, or at one time participated in, the Ladies Guild, KINGS Youth Group, Catholic Scripture Studies, Lecturer, Choir, and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy on first Friday. She

organized and recited an annual Patriotic Rosary every July 4th, and attended Mass daily. She attended the first ACTS retreat held in El Paso and eventually served several times on Team. She was an ACTS Co-Director, Director, Spiritual Director and Music Ministry Director. As part of her devotion to Our Blessed Mother, Elsa made pilgrimages to the Holy Ground of Medjugor-

je, to the Shrines of Fatima, and twice to Lourdes.

Elsa's passing in 2017 after a valiant battle with cancer left her husband and self-proclaimed trail and tent mate, Victor, reeling from the loss and focused on keeping her memory alive. In 2019, he attended the 13th Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner: When We Sing, We Pray Twice with Catholic singer songwriter Matt Maher, and discovered an opportunity to do something special for his angel. He purchased the Name Your Own Street sign package, donated by CareFree Homes, because it reminded him of Elsa's strength, grace, and tenacity when they walked the Camino de Santiago following her third round of chemotherapy, and brought to mind the Way of St. James, which goes from Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

On Saturday, May 22, Father Edilberto "Beto" López, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in the Diocese of El Paso and family friend, blessed Elsa Maldonado Lane. Victor invited family, friends, and the Queen of Peace community to enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and a blessing in cel-

ebration of the life of a beautiful woman of God and faith. That same morning while setting up, Victor met a future homeowner and invited him to bring his wife and son to the blessing. The joyful event included burritos and donuts, reunions, laughter, tears, prayer, and songs of praise for the glorious day. Victor made everyone feel welcome and special. It was a day to remember and a testament to our Catholic faith. Elsa Maldonado Lane, located in Northeast El Paso where Victor and Elsa grew up, has a beautiful view of the Franklin Mountains. It's a location fit for a queen, now welcoming new families to the neighborhood to live joyfully and happily ever after.

Join us for the 15th Annual Foundation of Faith Event: Ignite Your Hearts with keynote Mark Hart and musical guest Sarah Hart on Thursday, September 23. The event will be livestreamed on YouTube. You will have the opportunity to name your own street sign!

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

We Want to Honor You!

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

You've played a crucial role in the enduring history of the Catholic Foundation and we encourage you to participate in the storytelling and celebrations this year. We invite you to give a "Gift of 20" to your favorite endowed fund. You can leave a lasting legacy with a gift to your parish, school, or ministry or charity fund, and create something special that will last forever.

In 2001, 122 seed donors contributed \$177,000 to create a Catholic Foundation and an endowment for the future. The Catholic Foundation has grown

to be a philanthropic leader that helps improve the lives of thousands of people and strengthens their faith in God.

The Catholic Legacy Fund, the Catholic Foundation's endowment program, reached \$20 million in 2020 just in time for our 20th anniversary. It's time to celebrate!

Give a "Gift of 20" to your favorite endowed fund. There are four levels of giving to choose from: Saint (one-time gift of \$20,000); Blessed (\$20,000 paid over 20 months); Servant of God (\$2,000 paid over 20 months); and Prayer Warrior (\$200 gifts). Gifts go to permanent endowed funds that will provide support in perpetuity. Name your fund in

honor or memory of a loved one, or your patron saint.

The Catholic Foundation's first 20 Saints will receive special recognition in 2021. All of our Saints, Blessed, Servants of God, and Prayer Warriors will be announced during the 15th Annual Foundation of Faith Event: Ignite Your Hearts on September 23 and will be listed in the event program. Each of our 20 Saints will receive a write-up on the Catholic Foundation website and social media for 20 days in October, 2021. Deadline for Saints is August 27.

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

Clergy Makes Huge Impact in our Faith and our Families

By Tina Edwards-Milan
Pledge Fulfillment Specialist

The "We Are the Body of Christ" campaign is designed to raise the necessary funds to support our seminarians, strengthen our Catholic schools and religious education programs and nourish our parish communities. The campaign raises funds for seminary education and diaconate formation, Catholic education and religious formation and financial assistance for parish emergency needs and expansion.

To date, \$10,691,670 has been raised for the campaign, with 33 parishes having participated. For one community member Celina del Toro and her family, doing everything she can to support parish priests is a personal mission – one she conducts with not just participating in initiatives

like the "We Are the Body of Christ" campaign, but through prayer and artwork.

"My parents raised my siblings and me in the Catholic Church and always instilled in us the love to our Lady of Guadalupe and our Catholic faith," said del Toro, who until recently attended Our Lady of Sorrows. "We forged great friendships within our Lady of Sorrows community. We were blessed to have the spiritual guidance and company of Fray Arturo, Fray Tobias, Fray Ernesto, and Fray Enrique – all of whom still hold a special place in our hearts and prayers. We moved to the Westside and became parishioners of St Luke, where we are blessed to have the spiritual guidance of Father Beto, Father Sotelo, and now Father Marcus. With the pandemic, we have not been able to get close

to Father Marcus, but we hope when things get better, we will get to spend more time with him."

Del Toro, who has a special place in her heart for Our Lady of Guadalupe, began to draw her image as a way to thank her for the many blessings in her life and prayers answered, as well as a way to honor the priests who have served as her spiritual guides. She has since reproduced and shared the image she drew of the Lady of Guadalupe and offered it as a gift. Thus far, she has gifted more than 300 prints of the Lady of Guadalupe – sending them as far as Canada and Mexico

"I believe in the importance of giving back to our community, it is the only way to give thanks to God for all His blessings, and I am blessed to say I have many

blessings give thanks for," she said.

Among her blessings was the family's four children – especially their most recent arrival, who was born healthy despite a high-risk pregnancy that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic

"We prayed as a family to our Lady of Guadalupe to intercede for us and protect our baby girl," del Toro said. "During labor, our baby had a hard time breathing when she was born, and it was the most challenging time of our lives. We prayed, we prayed, and she lived. We are grateful to our Lady of Guadalupe for her intercession and for God to grant us the opportunity to have our baby girl. Our baby was born in July 2020, and she is a healthy girl."

Tina Edwards-Milan, Pledge Fulfillment Specialist, said she is grateful for Catholic community

members like del Toro who support the work of the We Are the Body of Christ campaign through prayer, advocacy and financial donations.

"(Del Toro)'s faith and special relationship with her parish priests are among her reasons for giving to the campaign," said Edwards-Milan. "But everyone has a reason of their own. We are so thankful to the generosity of the parishioners who prayerfully make a sacrifice to support the future of our Diocese."

To make a donation, or for more information, go to www.bodyofchristcampaign.com or call (915) 872-8412



For Aspiring Priests, A Life Of Service Begins With Study And Prayer

By Natalie Eckberg
Progress Coordinator

"That is the primary responsibility while in seminary," said the Very Rev. John Telles, Rector and Director of Seminarians for the Diocese of El Paso. "Prayer and study. The seminarians need intense preparation to ready for their goal of becoming a priest. They need to prepare intellectually, humanly, pastorally and spiritually."

This discernment — and the entire preparation process that is part of the journey for future priests — is part of the Major Seminarians Office and St. Charles Seminary. The Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal helps fund these activities and the work of 14 other ministries in the Diocese of El Paso. The Appeal has a goal of raising \$1.9 million to ensure the work of the Diocese continues.

And for Fr. John, the seminarian formation is about diocesan community members investing in their own future.

"It really is among the best and greatest ministries of the Church," he said. "It's about the creation of future priests — the leaders of our faith community. We educate and prepare one man, but once he finishes and is ordained, he will touch thou-



Seminarians expected to receive a four-year Bachelor's degree and then take on advanced studies leading to a graduate degree in Theology. Photo courtesy of St. Charles Seminary

sands of hearts over many years through his presence, guidance and offering of the sacraments."

Native El Pasoan Jimmy Venegas, in his first year at St. Charles Seminary, says that shaping requires all of his emotional and intellectual resources.

"What I found valuable is the focus on who we are," he said. "In order to serve the community, you have to give of yourself to God. And that means you have to understand your relationship with God, which means knowing

who you are."

And, through the process, Jimmy began to develop a clearer picture of the person he is — as well as the person he wants to become.

"I'm someone who wants to create a strong relationship with God and to give myself fully to Him and my community," he said. "I always felt deep down in my heart that I wanted to give to God and to others. But I also had questions, too. Questions like: 'What if I went into mechanical

engineering, or became a Navy Seal?' But those ideas didn't fill my heart. When I began to learn more about becoming a priest, I realized: 'Wow. This is where I want to be for the rest of my life.'"

The process to become a priest takes six to ten years, with seminarians expected to receive a four-year Bachelor's degree and then take on advanced studies leading to a graduate degree in Theology. Seminary life consists of four areas: Academic Formation (including studies of philosophy, theology, scripture, and pastoral studies), Spiritual Formation (daily Mass and communal prayer, spiritual direction, and retreats), Pastoral Formation (field work and hands-on experience in parishes or other ministries), and Human Formation (communal and social activities, service, and sports).

Currently 19 men are studying to become priests, with a couple more still discerning. While joyfully accepted, however, the investment is steep for each seminarian, said Fr. John.

"We are talking about room and board, education, health insurance and travel expenses," he said. "You aren't allowed to work while in the seminary — you have to devote yourself to prayer and study. We give them

a stipend for personal items. For each seminarian, it costs \$45,000 each year. So if we have the new young men join us, we are looking at \$1 million."

The investment is well worth it, said Fr. John, who said the seminarians also inspire him to be a better and more compassionate model of a priest for them.

"All the young men will serve the Diocese of El Paso — so it goes right back into our community," he said. "And priests serve an average of 40 to 50 years. We may not see the fruits of this ministry right away, but the harvest will be plentiful."

The seminarians need the support of the Diocese, Fr. John went on to say. Simple things — like making a donation through the Progress Appeal, donating toiletries, bringing food or praying for them — goes a long way.

For Jimmy, he hopes to give back through his vocation — and a lifetime of service.

"One day, I hope to work with immigrants or the poor," said Jimmy. "Or maybe with the youth. At the end of the day, I'll be happy if I'm serving God or his people."

You can support the future leadership of the Diocese through a donation to the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal.

Para Los Aspirantes Al Sacerdocio, Una Vida De Estudio Y Oración

Por Natalie Eckberg
Coordinador de Progres

"Esa es su responsabilidad principal en el seminario", dijo el Padre John Telles, Rector y Director de los Seminaristas de la Diócesis de El Paso. "Oración y estudio. Los seminaristas necesitan una preparación intensa para su objetivo de convertirse en sacerdotes. Necesitan prepararse intelectual, humana, pastoral y espiritualmente."

Este discernimiento, y todo el camino de preparación de los futuros sacerdotes, forma parte de la Oficina del Seminario Mayor y del Seminario San Carlos Borromeo. La Campaña Católica para los Ministerios: Progreso 2021 ayuda a financiar estas actividades y el trabajo de otros 14 ministerios en la Diócesis de El Paso. La Campaña tiene el objetivo de recaudar \$ 1.9 millones para garantizar que el trabajo de la Diócesis continúe.

Y para el Padre John, la formación de seminaristas se trata de los miembros de la comunidad diocesana invirtiendo en su propio futuro.

"Es realmente uno de los mejores y más grandes ministerios de la Iglesia", dijo. "Se trata de la formación de futuros sacerdotes, los líderes de nuestra comunidad de fe. Educamos y preparamos a una persona, pero una vez que termine y sea ordenado, tocará miles de corazones durante muchos años a través de su presencia, guía y celebración de los sacramentos."

Jimmy Venegas, nativo de El Paso, quien cursa su primer año en el Seminario San Carlos



Borromeo, dice que la formación requiere todos sus recursos emocionales e intelectuales.

"Lo que encontré valioso es el enfoque en quiénes somos", dijo. "Para servir a la comunidad, hay que entregarse a Dios. Y eso significa que tienes que comprender tu relación con Dios, lo que significa saber quién eres."

Y, a través del proceso, Jimmy comenzó a desarrollar una imagen más clara de la persona que es, así como de la persona en la que quiere convertirse.

"Soy alguien que quiere crear una relación sólida con Dios y entregarme plenamente a Él y a mi comunidad", dijo. "Siempre sentí en el fondo de mi corazón que me quería entregar a Dios y a los demás. Pero también tenía preguntas. Preguntas como: '¿Qué pasa si me dedico a la ingeniería mecánica o me convierto en un Navy Seal?' Pero esas ideas no llenaban mi corazón. Cuando aprendí más sobre cómo convertirme en sacerdote, me di cuenta: 'Vaya. Aquí es donde quiero estar el resto de mi vida'."

El proceso para convertirse en sacerdote toma de seis a ocho años, y se espera que los seminaristas reciban una licenciatura en cuatro años y luego realicen estudios avanzados que conduzcan a un título de posgrado en Teología. La vida del seminario consta de cuatro áreas: Formación académica (que incluye estudios de filosofía, teología, Sagradas Escrituras y estudios pastorales), Formación espiritual (Misa diaria y oración comunitaria,

dirección espiritual y retiros), Formación pastoral (trabajo de campo y experiencia práctica en parroquias u otros ministerios), y Formación Humana (actividades comunitarias y sociales, servicio y deportes).

Actualmente 19 hombres están estudiando para ser sacerdotes, y un par más están todavía en discernimiento. Sin embargo, aunque se acepta con alegría, la inversión por cada seminarista es considerable, dijo el Padre John.

"Estamos hablando de alojamiento y comida, educación, seguro médico y gastos de viaje", dijo. "No puedes trabajar mientras estás en el seminario, tienes que dedicarte a la oración y al estudio. Les damos un estipendio para artículos personales. Por cada seminarista, se invierte \$45,000 por año. Entonces, si los nuevos jóvenes se unen a nosotros, estamos hablando de \$ 1 millón."

La inversión vale la pena, dijo el Padre John, quien dijo que los seminaristas también lo inspiran a ser un modelo de sacerdote mejor y más compasivo para ellos.

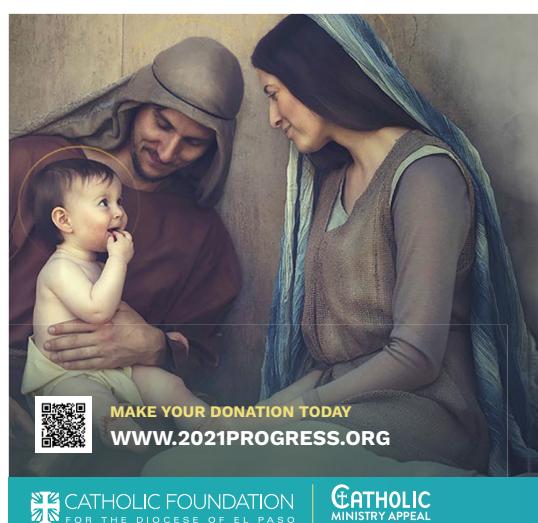
"Todos los jóvenes servirán a la Diócesis de El Paso, por lo que beneficia directamente a nuestra comunidad", dijo. "Y los sacerdotes sirven un promedio de 40 a 50 años. Puede que no veamos de inmediato los frutos de este ministerio, pero la cosecha será abundante."

Los seminaristas necesitan el apoyo de la Diócesis, el Padre John continuó diciendo. Cosas simples, como hacer una donación a través de Progreso, donar artículos personales, traer comida o rezar por ellos, son muy útiles.

Jimmy espera ayudar a la comunidad a través de su vocación y toda una vida de servicio.

"Algún día, espero trabajar con inmigrantes o con los pobres", dijo Jimmy. "O tal vez con la juventud. Al final del día, seré feliz si estoy sirviendo a Dios y a su pueblo".

Usted puede apoyar a los futuros líderes de la Diócesis a través de una donación a la Campaña Católica para los Ministerios: Progreso 2021.



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Piénselo Otra Vez



Padre Wilson Cuevas

Una mente abierta permite la posibilidad de volver a pensar sobre las situaciones o cosas que queremos hacer hasta encontrar un pensamiento o idea valiosa para hacer mejores decisiones en nuestra vida, familia o empresa. La situación actual en este tiempo de la pandemia nos está exigiendo a todos a aprender a pensar de manera diferente, a romper los moldes de cómo hemos hecho las cosas siempre. Necesitamos tener humildad para reconocer que no “lo sabemos todo”, que necesitamos aprender a hacer cosas nuevas; a ser consciente que los seres humanos pueden modificar sus vidas al cambiar la actitud de sus mentes. Que así como hacemos limpieza de nuestro cuerpo y de nuestra casa y del medio ambiente, así también hagamos limpieza de la contaminación de nuestros pensamientos, si lo hacemos nos renovamos y avanzamos hacia la excelencia.

Seamos consciente de lo que entra en nuestra mente y pensamientos; hagamos todo el fuerzo posible por poner allí solo lo que es bueno, limpio, saludable, poderoso y positivo. Por eso el apóstol Pablo, nos dice: “Examínalo todo y quedense con lo bueno” (I Tesalonicense 5, 21-22). Ejercitemos nuestra capacidad de razonar, pensar, se-

leccionar y decidir mucha gente, incluyendo a los cristianos llevan unas vidas secas, estancadas, simplemente porque han dejado de aprender. No ejercitan la creatividad, la curiosidad, el ampliar sus horizontes y poner a prueba sus límites; no hacen nada nuevo. Cada día parece el anterior. La misma rutina, el mismo modo de pensar, las mismas actividades y quizás las mismas preocupaciones.

Puedo comprender el hastío de “lo mismo”; le tengo buenas noticias: No tiene que quedarse estancado en las mismas rutinas, lidiando con las mismas frustraciones un día y el otro también. Una de las cosas más fáciles y que pueden hacer para disfrutar su vida es tomar la decisión de empezar a aprender cosas nuevas, emocionantes, diferentes. No tiene que ser algo grande y complicado, podría ser algo tan simple como aprender

una nueva rutina de ejercicios, plantar un jardín o como hacer más cosas con su celular o su computadora que solo enviar mensajes o correos electrónicos. Aprender a preparar y comer cosas saludables y diferentes, como ensaladas, frutas, beber más agua, escuchar música, frecuentar lugar donde haya más naturaleza, agua, pájaros. Visitar diferentes iglesias, santuarios, orar ante Jesús Sacramentado o alguna imagen de su devoción. Conversar con diferentes personas, conocer lugares nuevos.... Piense que tiene la posibilidad de organizar su vida y sus cosas de un modo diferente. El mismo espacio donde vive puede organizarlo de otra manera, intételo en vida. No espere que otro lo hagan

cuento ya usted no este. Piensa que tienes las posibilidades de vivir mejor con lo que tienes!

Para aprender cosas nuevas, estoy convencidos que se necesita estos ingredientes: primer paso: EL DESEO, segundo paso: LA FE, en ti y en Dios. Tercer paso: LA AUTOSUGESTIÓN, si quieres resultados sorprendentes, sea persistente. Cuarto paso: INVESTIGUE, edúquese o informe sobre lo que sugiere aprender. Quinto paso: LA IMAGINACIÓN, la

imaginación es el taller de su cabeza y puede convertir su energía en logro y satisfacción. Sexto paso: LA PLANIFICACIÓN ORGANIZADA, decidirse por lo que quiere aprender, séptimo paso: LA PERSEVERANCIA, se transforma en un poder seguro y progresivo. Tome encuentra estos pasos que le serán de gran ayuda para pensar y lograr aprender cosas nuevas. Hay incontables historias acerca de personas maravillosas que han hecho cosas increíbles o personas que han pasado por eventos muy trágicos y han tomado la decisión que estos no los amarguen. Esas historias no solo son interesantes, también inspiradoras. Muchas veces aprendemos en un proceso de ensayo y error. No se desanime, inténtelo otra vez. Haga modificaciones, hasta que logre aprender como usted lo desea. Aprender no es fácil para uno como lo es para otros. No todos aprendemos tan rápido, pero todos podemos aprender cosas nuevas.

Se cuenta la historia de Carmichael, compositor y líder de la banda “Hoagy”, su decisión de empezar a jugar golf, interesado

en este deporte, decidió tomar lecciones con un instructor de golf, y en el día estipulado, llegó para aprender. En la primera lección Carmichael escuchó pacientemente mientras el instructor le enseñaba lo básico del juego: Cosas como la manera de agarrar el palo de golf, como colocar la pelota, las mecánicas del swing de golf y demás. Aproximadamente a la media hora de la lección, el instructor dijo: Porque no sacas el palo y trata de pegarle a la pelota en la dirección al primer hoyo? Carmichael colocó la pelota de golf y la golpeo tan fuerte como pudo. La vio volar, calle abajo, rebotar en el sácate y rodar directamente a la copa: Un hoyo es uno! El instructor no podía creer lo que acababa de ver. Esa sorprendido. Con gran emoción, Carmichael, volteo y le dijo al instructor, con un guiño de ojo: “Bien, creo que ya capte la idea”.

No todos podemos aprender tan rápido, pero todos podemos aprender. Podemos aprender nuevas habilidades, podemos aprender nuevas técnicas de paternidad, podemos aprender nuevos estilos, nuevas maneras de alimentarnos, de hacer ejercicio, de vivir nuestra espiritualidad y fe en Dios; ayudar a personas necesitadas, participar en un ministerio o servicios como voluntarios en organizaciones sociales sin ánimo de lucro y en muchas otras

cosas. Momentos como esos son grandes oportunidades para aprender y servir a otros. Quizás podrías considerar como tomar cada día treinta minutos para aprender algo! Para su autoformación y crecimiento personal...

He descubierto que puedo escuchar por lo menos treinta minutos de algún tipo de enseñanza Bíblica, el Rezo del Rosario o alguna conferencia religiosa durante el tiempo que me estoy afeitando y organizando cada mañana. Si piensa que no tiene tiempo para aprender nuevas cosas se equivoca. Todo lo que tiene que hacer es aprovechar mejor el tiempo y las oportunidades que están a su alcance. Empiece a usar el poder de la media hora! Es sorprendente lo que podemos lograr si usamos quince minutos por aquí o por allá, a los treinta minutos que están disponibles entre una cita y otra. Esos son los momentos que desperdiciamos muchas veces y que podríamos usar de manera productiva. Tres cosas muy importantes: Primero, aprenda más acerca de Dios, mientras más aprenda de Dios, más cerca de Él podemos estar. (Filipenses 3,10).

Si está interesado en aprender más acerca de Dios lea o haga un curso de Biblia, abundan online. Segundo, aprenda más de sí mismo, usted es una persona maravillosa, pero quizás no lo sepa. Use el internet o busque un libro y aprenda cómo funciona su cuerpo. Le recomiendo dos libros: Deje que los alimentos sean su medicina, Don Colbert, M.D. y Salud Natural, Elke F. Lewis. Conozca sus fortalezas y debilidades. Tercero, aprenda de la gente y de todo lo que está a su alrededor. Toda persona es un regalo de Dios. Todo lo que Dios creó es bello, valioso y útil. Lo único que le queda por hacer es empezar! Aprender es una dicha. Aprenda algunas cosas que no sabía.!

Think Again

An open mind allows the possibility of rethinking about the situations or things we want to do until we find a more valuable thought or idea to make better decisions in our life, family, or company. The current situation during this time of the pandemic is demanding that we all learn to think differently, to break the molds of how we have always done things. We need to be humble in order to recognize that we do not “know everything”, that we need to learn to do new things; to be aware that human beings can modify their lives by changing the attitude of their minds. That just as we clean our body and our house and the environment, so we also must clean up the contamination of our thoughts. If we do this, we renew ourselves and move forward towards excellence.

Let us be aware of what enters our mind and thoughts; let's put all our efforts into putting into them only what is good, clean, healthy, powerful and positive. That is why the apostle Paul tells us: “Examine everything and keep what is good” (I Thessalonians 5:21-22). Let us exercise our ability to reason, think, select

and decide. Many people, including Christians, lead dry, stagnant lives simply because they have stopped learning. They do not exercise creativity, curiosity, expanding their horizons and testing their limits; they don't do anything new. Every day is like the day before. The same routine, the same way of thinking, the same activities and maybe the same concerns.

I can understand the boredom of “the same”, I have good news for you: You don't have to get stuck in the same routines, dealing with the same frustrations day after day. One of the easiest things you can do to enjoy your life is making the decision to start learning new, exciting, different things. It doesn't have to be something big and complicated, it could be something as simple as trying a new exercise routine, planting a garden, or learning to do more things on your cell phone or your computer other than just sending messages or emails. Learn to prepare and eat healthy and different foods, such as salads, fruits, drink more water, listen to music, visit places where there is more nature, water, birds. Visit different churches,

sanctuaries, pray before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament or some image of your own devotion, have conversations with different people, explore new places ... believe that you have the capability to organize your life and things in a different way. Even the same space where you live can be arranged differently, and this includes your life. Don't wait for someone else to do it when you are no longer around. Believe that you have the possibilities of living better with what you have now!

To learn new things, I am convinced that you need these ingredients: First step: DESIRE, Second step: FAITH, in yourself and in God. Third step: SELF ENCOURAGEMENT, if you want surprising results be persistent. Step four: INVESTIGATE, educate and inform yourself about what you want to learn. Fifth step: IMAGINATION, the imagination is the workshop in your head that can turn your energy into achievement and satisfaction. Step Six: ORGANIZED PLANNING , decide on what it is you want to learn. Seventh step: PERSEVERANCE, becomes a sure and

progressive power. Take into account these steps that will be of great help to you to think and to learn new and different things

There are countless stories about wonderful people who have done incredible things, or people who have gone through very tragic events and have made the decision that these will not make them bitter. These stories are not only interesting, but they are also inspiring. Many times we learn through trial and error. Don't be discouraged, try again. Make modifications until you attain success in how you want things to be in your life. Learning is not as easy for some as it is for others. We don't all learn at the same rate, but we can all learn new things.

There is a story of Carmichael, composer and leader of the band “Hoagy”, and his decision to start playing golf. He became interested in the sport and decided to take lessons with a golf instructor. On the appointed day, he arrived for his first lesson. During his first lesson Carmichael listened patiently as the instructor taught him the basics of the game: things like how to grip the golf

club, how to position the ball, the mechanics of the golf swing and so on. About half an hour into the lesson, the instructor said to him: “Why don't you take out a golf club and try to hit the ball in the direction of the first hole?” Carmichael set up the golf ball and hit it as hard as he could. He saw it fly, come down, bounce off the grass and roll straight into the cup: a hole in one! The instructor couldn't believe what he had just seen. He is totally surprised. With great emotion, Carmichael turned around and said to the instructor with a wink, “Okay, I think I get the idea.”

We can't all learn as fast, but we can all learn. We can learn new skills, we can learn new parenting techniques, we can learn new styles, new ways of preparing our meals, exercising, living our spirituality and faith in God; helping people in need, participating in a ministry or serving as volunteers in non-profit social organizations and many other things. Times like these are great opportunities to learn and serve others.

Maybe you could consider taking thirty minutes of every day to

- Fr. Wilson Continued on Page 10

Mary, our Mother



By Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

"Loving trust and total surrender made Our Lady say "yes" to the message of the angel. And cheerfulness made her run in haste to serve her cousin Elizabeth. That is so much our life: saying "yes" to Jesus and running in haste to serve Him in the poorest of the poor.

Let us keep very close to Our Lady and she will make that spirit grow in each one of us."—Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Let us ask Our Lady to help us be inspired by her "yes" and continue the work of Evangelization in the midst of this new normality. As the Diocese moves forward, opens the doors to the afflicted, continues to bring an online presence for those who are still unable to attend parishes, let us remember that wherever we are, we are in communion

with Jesus and with one another. Today, the Catholic Foundation invites you to spread the scent of our Holy Mother through a smile to the person next to you, a gesture of attentiveness, a touch of compassion to the afflicted, honor the ones who unfortunately are not with us anymore or make a gift to a parish through My Sunday Parish Offertory program, by visiting catholicfoundationelpaso.org/my-parish-offertory or by phone at 915-872-8412, whatever you do make sure to bring the scent of our Holy Mother, a scent of comfort, compassion and consolation for others. Yes, Mary, yes!

This article is dedicated in the loving memory of Fr. Trini Fuentes, Rector of St. Patrick Cathedral who faithfully served the Diocese for over 40 years and peacefully passed away on May 4, 2021.

Collection for Peter's Pence
The Peter's Pence 2019 Collection for the works of the Holy Father will be taken up at all Masses on the weekend of June 26 and Sunday, June 27, 2021.

Each year, the annual Peter's Pence Collection in support of the works of the Holy Father is held in parishes across the country. The proceeds from this collection provide emergency assistance to the most disadvantaged – those who suffer because of war, oppression, disease, and natural disaster. When we contribute to this fund, we are actively living the truth in love and speaking the truth in deeds.

As we participate in this special appeal, we join with more than 1 billion Catholics in a loving expression of worldwide solidarity. More than 98 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to the Holy Father's spiritual and charitable efforts around the globe.

On the weekend of June 26 and June 27, 2021 please take the opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. Thank you for your support.

La Colecta Para Las Obras del Santo Padre

La Colecta para las Obras del Santo Padre que será recogida en todas las misas durante el fin de semana del 26 de junio y 27 de junio, 2021.

Todos los años se realiza en las parroquias de todo el país la Colecta Peter's Pence, u Óbolo de San Pedro, en apoyo de las obras del Santo Padre. Lo recaudado en esta colecta financia asistencia de emergencia a las personas que sufren por la guerra, la opresión, enfermedades y los desastres naturales en todo el mundo. Cuando contribuimos a este fondo, estamos activamente hablando la verdad en el amor, y viviendo la verdad en los hechos.

Al participar en esta petición especial, nos unimos a más de mil millones de católicos en una amorosa expresión de solidaridad mundial. Más de 98 centavos de cada dólar recibido se destinan directamente a los esfuerzos espirituales y caritativos del Santo Padre en todo el mundo.

El fin de la semana del 26 y 27 de junio del 2021, por favor dé se la oportunidad de contribuir a esta digna causa.

Collection for the Diocese of Choluteca

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, June 12 and Sunday June 13, 2021, for the Diocese of Choluteca.

The funds from this collection will help the Diocese of Choluteca with humanitarian and evangelization projects under their direction.

Following Hurricane Mitch in 1998, the Catholic Bishops of Texas reached out to the church in Honduras and matched each diocese in Texas with a diocese in Honduras. The cities of El Paso and Brownsville were matched with Choluteca, which is one of the poorest regions of Honduras and the city that was the second-hardest hit by the hurricane. The bishops were interested in developing a long-term relationship among the dioceses, not merely sending aid in the aftermath of the hurricane.

On the weekend of June 12 and Sunday, June 13, 2021, please take the opportunity to contribute to the Diocese of Choluteca collection. Through this appeal, your support will make a real difference in the faith lives of the people in Honduras. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Choluteca. Thank you for your support.

Colecta para la Diócesis de Choluteca

Habrá una Ofrenda Especial el sábado, 12 de junio y domingo, 13 de junio para la Diócesis de Choluteca.

Los fondos recaudados de esta colecta ayudaran a la diócesis de Choluteca con proyectos humanitarios y evangelización bajo su dirección.

Después del huracán Mitch en 1998, los obispos católicos de Texas decidieron solidarizarse con la Iglesia de Honduras y coordinaron una diócesis de Texas con una diócesis de Honduras. Las ciudades de El Paso y Brownsville fueron coordinadas con Choluteca, que ésta una de las regiones más pobres de Honduras y que fue la segunda ciudad donde ocurrieron más daños por el huracán. Los obispos están de acuerdo en formar una amistad a largo plazo entre las diócesis, y no nada más en ayudar después de desastres naturales.

El fin de semana 12 y 13 de junio por favor de se la oportunidad de contribuir a esta digna causa. Recuerde que, gracias a su donativo, la Diócesis en Choluteca podrá brindar cuidados pastorales básicos a sus feligreses. Gracias por su apoyo.

- Fr. Wilson Continued From
Page 9

learn something new! For your own self-training and personal growth ...

I have found that I can listen to at least thirty minutes of some kind of Biblical teaching, praying of the Rosary or listening to some religious conference during the time that I'm shaving and getting organized every morning. If you think you don't have time to learn new things you are mistaken. All you have to do is make better use of your time and make use of the opportunities that are within your reach. Start using the power of

half an hour! It's amazing what we can achieve if we spend fifteen minutes here or there, or thirty minutes that are available between one appointment and another. These are the moments that we waste many times and that we could use productively. Three very important things: first, learn more about God, the more you learn about Him, the closer to Him we can be. (Philippians 3,10). Read this text which is very powerful and enlightening for your spiritual life with God. If you are interested in learning more about God read or take a Bible course, there are many available online. Second, learn

more about yourself, you are an amazing person, and you may not even know it. Use the internet or find a book and learn how your body works . I recommend two books: Let Food Be Your Medicine, Don Colbert, MD and Natural Health, Elke F. Lewis.

Know your strengths and weaknesses. Third, learn from people and everything around you. Every person is a gift from God. Everything that God created is beautiful, valuable and useful. The only thing left for you to do is get started! Learning brings. Happiness... Learn some things that you didn't know!

Maria Nuestra Madre Santa

By Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

"La confianza amorosa y la entrega total hicieron a Nuestra Madre decir "Sí" al mensaje del ángel. Y esta alegría la hizo correr a toda prisa a servir a su prima Isabel. Esto es nuestra vida: decir "Sí" a Jesús y correr apresuradamente a servirle en los mas pobres de pobres. Mantengámonos muy cerca de Nuestra Madre y ella hará crecer ese espíritu en nosotros."

- Madre Teresa de Calcuta
Pidámosle a Nuestra Madre que nos inspire de su "sí" a continuar el trabajo de la evangelización en medio de la nueva normalidad. A medida que la Diócesis avanza, abre sus puertas a los afligidos, continúa brindando una presencia en línea para aquellos que aún no pueden asistir a las parroquias, recordemos que en donde quiera que

estemos, estamos en comunión con Jesús y entre nosotros. Hoy, la Fundación Católica te invita a difundir el aroma de Nuestra Madre a través de una sonrisa a la persona de al lado, un gesto de atención, un toque de compasión a los afligidos, honor a los que desafortunadamente ya no están con nosotros o dar un obsequio a una parroquia por medio del Programa de la Ofrenda Parroquial en línea visitando catholicfoundationelpaso.org/my-parish-offertory, por teléfono al 915-872-8412, hagas lo que hagas, asegúrate de brindar el aroma de Nuestra Madre, un aroma de consuelo y compasión para los otros. ¡Si, María, Si!

Este artículo es dedicado en memoria del P. Trini Fuentes, Rector de la Catedral de San Patricio quien sirvió fielmente a la Diócesis por más de 40 años y falleció el 4 de Mayo del 2021.



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