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## Priest retirement, new assignments announced

Story on Page 5

# RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

Vol. 31, No. 6

The Official Paper of the Diocese of El Paso

June 2022

## Bishop ordains five new priests for diocese

By Fr. Michael L. Lewis  
Special Correspondent

Before a crowd of more than 1,200 faithful May 27 at St. Stephen Deacon and Martyr Church, Bishop Mark Seitz ordained five men to the priesthood for service to the Diocese of El Paso. New Fathers José William Arévalo Narváez, Astry Déraly, César García, Edroud Jean, and Sergio Legarreta Carrasco became, through the sacrament of Holy Orders, priests ordained to preach the Gospel, shepherd God's people, and celebrate the sacraments, especially the Mass.

After the proclamation of Scripture readings in Creole, Spanish and English, that detailed how the many parts of the Body of Christ are endowed with special gifts, and how to imitate the Christ, the High Priest and Good Shepherd, Bishop Mark explained the five qualities every good priest he's ever known has exhibited — kindness, faith, generosity, mercy, and holiness.

"Every priest who has ever touched my life was kind," he said in his homily. "They loved people. You could see them light up whenever they were around people, and were so present to those people they encountered. They were faithful to the Church and filled with love for her, even in the face of her weaknesses and failings. They were generous also with their gift of self, not people simply looking out for themselves, but always ready to give generously, especially to the most vulnerable."

"They were also merciful, like this one elderly priest I knew in the seminary," he said. "We always wanted to go to him for confession, because no matter if you said you had stolen three cars that week, he would say, 'Don't you worry about it at all. That's less than you stole last week! Progress!'" he said to laughter from the assembly.

"Lastly, they were all holy," he said. "Every priest who has touched my life has really been a person of prayer. They radiated the love of God in their holiness. This is not possible without the help of God and his grace."

The Rite of Ordination then continued with the five promising to carry out the office of priesthood worthily, wisely, reverently,



With the images of St. Rose of Lima, St. Martin de Porres, St. Katherine Drexel, and San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado looking on, Bishop Mark Seitz, right, prays over the kneeling candidates for ordination May 27 at St. Stephen Deacon and Martyr Church. The newly ordained priests are, from left, Fr. José William Arévalo Narváez, Fr. Astry Déraly, Fr. Sergio Legarreta Carrasco, Fr. Edroud Jean, and Fr. César García. Photo by Alejandra Saldana

## El obispo ordena a cinco nuevos sacerdotes

Por P. Michael L. Lewis  
Corresponsal especial

Ante una multitud de más de 1,200 fieles, el 27 de mayo en la Iglesia de San Esteban Diácono y Mártir, el Obispo Mark Seitz ordenó a cinco hombres al sacerdocio para que sirvieran a la Diócesis de El Paso. Los nuevos Padres José William Arévalo Narváez, Astry Déraly, César García, Edroud Jean y Sergio Legarreta Carrasco se convirtieron, mediante el sacramento del Orden, en sacerdotes ordenados para predicar el Evangelio, pastorear al pueblo de Dios y celebrar los sacramentos, especialmente la Eucaristía.

Tras la proclamación de las lecturas de las Escrituras en criollo, español e inglés, que detallaban cómo las muchas partes del Cuerpo de Cristo están dotadas de dones especiales, y cómo im-

itar a Cristo, el Sumo Sacerdote y Buen Pastor, el obispo Mark explicó las cinco cualidades que todo buen sacerdote que ha conocido ha exhibido: amabilidad, fidelidad, generosidad, misericordia y santidad.

"Todos los sacerdotes que han tocado mi vida eran amables", dijo en su homilía. "Amaban a la gente. Podías ver cómo se iluminaban cada vez que estaban cerca de la gente, y estaban tan presentes para las personas con las que se encontraban. Eran fieles a la Iglesia y estaban llenos de amor por ella, incluso ante sus debilidades y fallos. Eran generosos también con su entrega, no eran personas que se limitaban a mirar por sí mismas, sino que estaban siempre dispuestas a dar generosamente, sobre todo a los más vulnerables.

"También eran misericordiosos, como un sacerdote anciano



El Obispo Mark da el beso de la paz al Padre José William al concluir el Rito de Ordenación. Foto de Alejandra Saldana

que conocí en el seminario", dijo. "Siempre queríamos ir a confesarnos con él, porque no importaba que dijeras que habías robado tres coches esa semana,

él te decía: 'No te preocupes en absoluto. ¡Eso es menos de lo que robaste la semana pasada!'

Continued on Page 4

Continúa en la página 4

## EDITOR'S GUEST COLUMN - FR. IVAN MONTELONGO

# Synod: Listening to the Holy Spirit

We are in the middle of a synod: a process of listening to the Holy Spirit. In antiquity, a synod was a gathering of bishops to discuss and decide on important matters of Church life. The word "synod" itself means "together on the journey," walking on the same path as God's chosen people. And to walk together as people of God, we need to listen to each other and to the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts since we were baptized.

The theme of the current synod is "For a synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission." A synodal Church is one who walks with others in their "joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties"



Fr. Ivan Montelongo

(Gaudium et spes, 1). A synodal Church fosters the communion, the common unity of the faithful, by sharing in the liturgy and in service. It is a family where ev-

eryone can participate and where all the baptized are called to the mission of preaching the Gospel of Jesus.

The church seeks to grow in synodality, i.e., walking together, by listening and consulting with all the faithful about these topics. These are the themes that we are discussing:

**I. Companions on the Journey**

In the Church and in society we are side by side on the same journey.

- How has God accompanied you in your life? Has the parish or faith community been your companion? In what ways do you think the community could better promote walking side by side?

**II. Communion**

Through baptism, God gathers us together as diverse peoples of one faith.

- Do you feel welcome in your parish/faith community and nourished by the liturgy? Why or why not? How do you acknowledge/celebrate God's presence in the community?

**III. Participation**

God calls for the involvement of his People – laity, consecrated and ordained – to be agents in the mission of the Church.

- What does it mean to participate in the parish/faith community? Who can participate? What groups or individuals are left on the margins? What gifts and talents do you feel inspired to share

with the community?

**IV. Mission**

Our mission is to evangelize, to witness to the love of God in the midst of the whole human family.

- How does the Church and its members live out this mission? What is the mission of the parish/faith community today?

**V. Speaking with *Parrhesia* (Courage/Truth)**

With the intention of discerning God's will, the Church has begun this synodal process by listening to all the baptized.

- What steps does the Spirit invite us in order to grow in our journeying together? What would you like to say to the Church?

# Sínodo: Escuchar al Espíritu Santo

**A**ctualmente estamos en un sínodo: un proceso para escuchar al Espíritu Santo. En la antiguedad, el sínodo era una reunión de obispos para discutir y decidir cuestiones importantes en la vida de la Iglesia. El propio término "sínodo" significa "juntos en el camino", caminando juntos como pueblo escogido de Dios. Y para caminar juntos como pueblo de Dios, debemos escucharnos los unos a los otros y al Espíritu Santo que habita en nuestros corazones desde nuestro bautismo.

El tema de este sínodo es: "Por una Iglesia sinodal: Comunión, Participación, Misión." Una Iglesia sinodal es aquella que

camina con los demás en sus "gozos y esperanzas, tristezas y angustias" (Gaudium et spes, 1). Una Iglesia sinodal promueve la comunión, la común unidad de los fieles, compartiendo en la liturgia y en el servicio. Es una familia en la cual todos podemos participar y en la que todos los bautizados son llamados a la misión de predicar el Evangelio de Jesucristo.

La Iglesia quiere crecer en sinodalidad, es decir, en nuestro caminar juntos, escuchando y consultando a los fieles acerca de los siguientes temas:

**I. Compañeros en el Camino**

En la Iglesia y sociedad vamos unos junto a otros por el mismo

camino.

- ¿Cómo te ha acompañado Dios en tu vida? ¿Tu parroquia o comunidad de fe ha caminado contigo? ¿De qué formas crees que la comunidad puede promover el caminar juntos?

**II. Comunión**

Por el bautismo, Dios reúne nuestros pueblos distintos, pero con una misma fe.

- ¿Te sientes bienvenido en tu parroquia/comunidad de fe y fortalecido por la liturgia? ¿Por qué o por qué no? ¿Cómo reconoces/celebras la presencia de Dios en la comunidad?

**III. Participación**

Dios hace un llamado al compromiso de su Pueblo – laicos,

**IV. Misión**

Nuestra misión es evangelizar, testimoniar el amor de Dios en medio de toda la familia humana.

- ¿Cómo viven esta misión la Iglesia y sus miembros? ¿Cuál es la misión de la parroquia/comunidad de fe hoy en día?

**V. Hablar con *Parresía* (Valentía/Verdad)**

Con el propósito de discernir la voluntad de Dios, la Iglesia ha comenzado este proceso sinodal escuchando a todos los bautizados.

- ¿Qué pasos nos invita a dar el Espíritu para crecer en nuestro caminar juntos? ¿Qué lequieres decir a la Iglesia?

# THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

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# A Meeting on Human Trafficking at the Vatican

In my new role as chairman-elect of the U.S. Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services Committee I had the opportunity a couple of weeks ago to attend a meeting in the Vatican of the Santa Marta Group. This group was formed in 2014 to bring together various groups, but especially bishops' conferences and law enforcement agencies around the world to collaborate and plan the ways that human trafficking can be ended. Five continents were represented by both lay leaders and bishops. Representing law enforcement in the United States, we had the acting head of Homeland Security Investigations, Steve Francis, and other members of his leadership team.

Human trafficking includes a wide range of crimes against people such as sex trafficking, forced labor, and a growing area of modern-day violation of the human person, which is trafficking in human organs. I know this is hard to imagine, but people are being coerced to donate their

organs, such as kidneys. In China prisoners are being executed, and their organs are being sold to customers around the world.

The meeting lasted 2½ days and included a great deal of information regarding the work that is being done throughout the world to end this plague and to care for the victims. On one evening we were all invited to the home of the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, Joe Donnelly, who just took up his post in April. I had the honor of offering a few words in that setting. I also had the chance to speak at our meeting regarding the Church's response in the United States. I pointed out that often those who come to the United States seeking asylum have been victimized along the way, and they need to be received with compassion.

The high point of the meeting was our audience with the Holy Father. Our group was brought into the papal palace and after a short wait, Pope Francis arrived. He was using a wheelchair to get around due to a problem he is

having with his knee. But he was still sharp and cheerful. The pope has always been very supportive of this work.

Cardinal Nichols of England gave the pope a summary of our work. Here is a portion of what the Cardinal shared with our Holy Father:

"We will work together to strengthen every effort at education in our communities, continually raising awareness of the reality of modern slavery, and increasing the capacity of all faith communities to work together against this abhorrent crime. In this we know we must counter the corrupting uses to which social media platforms are put. Within this priority is the need to defend children, strengthening their consciences and their awareness of danger.

We keep as our priority the needs of the victims of human trafficking and enforced labour, their immediate and long-term support. We shall press for greater government support and strive to ensure for them the best



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

assistance possible."

Here is a portion of what Pope Francis said to us:

"In the years since its establishment, the Santa Marta Group has devoted itself to fostering an ever-greater understanding of the scope and nature of human trafficking and to strengthening cooperation on the international, national and local levels so that effective ways to end this scourge may be found and that its victims may receive needed care, both physically and spiritually.

Sadly, modern forms of slavery continue to spread, even

within the most developed areas of our world. It is my hope that the fight against human trafficking will take into greater consideration a number of broader realities. These would include the responsible use of technology and social media, as well as the need for a renewed ethical vision of our political, economic and social life, one centred not on profit but on persons."

It was quite a privilege to be part of this gathering. I pray that we all might do our part to find solutions to end the organized abuse of human beings for the sake of profit.

## Reunión sobre la trata de seres humanos en el Vaticano

En mi nuevo papel como presidente-electo del Comité de Servicios de Migración y Refugiados de los Obispos de Estados Unidos, tuve la oportunidad hace un par de semanas de asistir a una reunión en el Vaticano del Grupo Santa Marta. Este grupo se formó en 2014 para reunir a varios grupos, pero sobre todo a las conferencias episcopales y a las fuerzas de seguridad de todo el mundo para colaborar y planificar las formas en que se puede acabar con la trata de personas. Los cinco continentes estuvieron representados tanto por líderes laicos como por obispos. En representación de las fuerzas del orden de los Estados Unidos contamos con el jefe en funciones de las Investigaciones de Seguridad Nacional, Steve Francis, y otros miembros de su equipo directivo.

La trata de seres humanos abarca un amplio abanico de delitos contra las personas, como el tráfico sexual, los trabajos forzados y un ámbito cada vez más extendido de violación moderna de la persona humana que es el tráfico de órganos humanos. Sé que es difícil de imaginar, pero se coacciona a las personas para que donen sus órganos, como los riñones. En China se ejecuta a los presos y sus órganos se entregan a clientes que pagan en todo el mundo.



La reunión duró dos días y medio e incluyó mucha información sobre el trabajo que se está realizando en todo el mundo para acabar con esta plaga y atender a las víctimas. Una noche fuimos todos invitados a la casa del embajador de Estados Unidos a la Santa Sede, Joe Donnelly, que acaba de tomar posesión de su cargo en abril. Tuve el honor de ofrecer unas palabras en ese entorno. También tuve la oportunidad de hablar al grupo sobre la respuesta de la Iglesia en Estados Unidos. Señalé que, a menudo, quienes llegan a Estados Unidos en busca de asilo han sido víctimas en el camino y necesitan ser recibidos con compasión.

El punto culminante de la reunión fue nuestra audiencia con el Santo Padre. Nuestro grupo fue conducido al palacio papal y, tras una breve espera, llegó el Papa Francisco. Utilizaba una silla de ruedas para desplazarse debido a un problema que tiene en la rodilla. Pero seguía siendo agudo y alegre. El Papa siempre ha apoyado mucho esta labor.

El cardenal Nichols, de Inglaterra, le dio al Papa un resumen de nuestro trabajo. He aquí una parte de lo que el cardenal compartió con nuestro Santo Padre:

"Trabajaremos juntos para reforzar todos los esfuerzos de educación en nuestras comunidades, concienciando continuamente

sobre la realidad de la esclavitud moderna, y aumentando la capacidad de todas las comunidades religiosas para trabajar juntas contra este abominable crimen. En este sentido, sabemos que debemos contrarrestar los usos corruptos que se hacen de las plataformas de los medios sociales. Dentro de esta prioridad está la necesidad de defender a los niños, fortaleciendo sus conciencias y su conciencia del peligro.

Mantenemos como prioridad las necesidades de las víctimas de la trata de personas y del trabajo forzoso, su apoyo inmediato y a largo plazo. Presionaremos para obtener un mayor apoyo gu-

bernamental y nos esforzaremos por asegurarles la mejor asistencia posible."

He aquí una parte de lo que nos dijo el Papa Francisco:

"En los años transcurridos desde su creación, el Grupo Santa Marta se ha dedicado a fomentar una comprensión cada vez mayor del alcance y la naturaleza de la trata de seres humanos y a reforzar la cooperación a nivel internacional, nacional y local, de modo que se encuentren medios eficaces para poner fin a esta plaga y que sus víctimas reciban la atención necesaria, tanto física como espiritual.

Lamentablemente, las formas modernas de esclavitud siguen extendiéndose, incluso en las zonas más desarrolladas de nuestro mundo. Espero que la lucha contra la trata de personas tenga más en cuenta una serie de realidades más amplias. Entre ellas, el uso responsable de la tecnología y los medios sociales, así como la necesidad de una visión ética renovada de nuestra vida política, económica y social, centrada no en el beneficio sino en las personas".

Ha sido todo un privilegio participar en esta reunión. Rezo para que todos podamos poner de nuestra parte para encontrar soluciones que pongan fin al abuso organizado de los seres humanos en aras del beneficio.



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*Continued from Page 1*

and prayerfully, and also to respect and obey the bishop and his successors. Then, after the singing of the Litany of the Saints, Bishop Mark imposed his hands on each candidate, invoking the Holy Spirit, and was followed by the other priests present.

After the Prayer of Ordination, the newly ordained priests were vested in the stole and chasuble before Bishop Mark anointed their hands with chrism. Finally, the new priests were presented with the chalice and paten as Bishop Mark charged them to "understand what you will do, imitate what you will celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord's Cross." The newly ordained then concelebrated their first Mass with Bishop Mark and the other priests present.

At the Mass's conclusion, Bishop Mark surprised the new priests by announcing their first assignments as parochial vicars: Father José William will be at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where he previously served as a seminarian; Father Astry will remain at St. Matthew's, where he has served as a deacon; Father César will be at St. Mark's; Father Edroud will be at St. Raphael's; and Father Sergio will be at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

"May God protect you constantly with his grace, that you may faithfully discharge the duties of the priesthood," Bishop Mark prayed over the new priests during the final blessing. "And may he make you true shepherds to provide the living Bread and word of life to the faithful, that they may continue to grow in the unity of the Body of Christ."



*As they prepare to depart the sanctuary at the end of the Mass, the five newly ordained priests flank Bishop Mark and Deacons Angel Aguilar, left, and Angel Tarango, who were ordained in April. Photo by Fernie Ceniceros*

**Continuación de la página 1**

Progreso!", dijo entre las risas de la asamblea.

"Por último, todos eran santos", dijo. "Todos los sacerdotes que han tocado mi vida han sido realmente personas de oración. Irradiaban el amor de Dios en su santidad. Esto no es posible sin la ayuda de Dios y su gracia".

Luego continuó el Rito de Ordenación, en el que los cinco prometieron desempeñar el oficio del sacerdocio con dignidad, sabiduría, reverencia, fidelidad y oración, y también respetar

y obedecer al obispo y a sus sucesores. A continuación, tras el canto de las letanías de los santos, el obispo Mark impuso las manos a cada candidato, invocando al Espíritu Santo, y fue seguido por los demás sacerdotes presentes.

Tras la oración de ordenación, los nuevos sacerdotes fueron revestidos con la estola y la casulla antes de que el obispo Mark les ungiera las manos con el crisma. Por último, los nuevos sacerdotes recibieron el cáliz y la patena, mientras el obispo Mark les encargaba, "Advierte bien lo

que vas a realizar, imita lo que tendrás en tus manos y configura toda tu vida con el misterio de la cruz del Señor". A continuación, los recién ordenados concelebraron su primera misa con el obispo Mark y los demás sacerdotes presentes.

Al final de la misa, el obispo Mark sorprendió a los nuevos sacerdotes anunciándoles sus primeros destinos como vicarios parroquiales: El Padre José William estará en la catedral de San Patricio, donde anteriormente sirvió como seminarista; el Padre Astry permanecerá en San

Mateo, donde ha servido como diácono; el Padre César estará en San Marcos; el Padre Edroud estará en San Rafael; y el Padre Sergio estará en Santa Francisca Javier Cabrini.

"Que Dios los proteja continuamente con su gracia a fin de que cumplan fielmente el ministerio presbiteral", rezó el obispo Mark sobre los nuevos sacerdotes durante la bendición final. "Que los haga verdaderos pastores que distribuyan a los fieles la Palabra de la vida y el Pan vivo, para que crezcan en la unidad del cuerpo de Cristo".

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!**

Fr. Roberto Alvarado

Fr. Christian Benitez Abrica, OFM Conv.

Fr. Jesus Antonio Martinez de Esponeda Quintana, OAR

Fr. Edward Carpenter, Jr.

Fr. Faustino Ortiz-Suarez, MNM

June 7

June 7

June 9

June 12

June 24

**ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Fr. Wilbert Colas

Fr. Richard Sotelo, SJ

Fr. Anthony C. Celino (25th)

Fr. Edilberto "Beto" Lopez (25th)

Fr. Miguel Angel Sanchez

Fr. Salvador Aguilera

Fr. Sam Rosales, SJ

Fr. Michael J. Gallagher

Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas

Fr. Hung T. Nguyen, SJ

Fr. James Marcus McFadin (30th)

Fr. Rolando Fonseca

Fr. Enrique Omar Soto-Ramirez, MNM

Fr. Valentin Cota, A., MNM

Fr. Jose Alberto Morales

Fr. Ivan Montelongo

Fr. Lazaro Gonzalez, OFM

Fr. Manuel R. Martinez

Fr. Jorge M. Palacio, OSM

Fr. Juan Francisco Figueroa Moran, OFM (20th)

Fr. German Alzate Agudelo

Fr. Victorino Lorezca

Fr. Jose Eulalio Gomez Martinez, OFM (50th)

Fr. Fernando Mendoza Laguna, OFM

Fr. Jose Vera-Perez, OFM

Fr. Jose Emilio Flores, OFM

Fr. Jose Alfredo Ramirez, OFM

Fr. Gerardo Francisco Salgado, OFM

Fr. Fabian A. Marquez

Fr. Mariano H. Lopez

Fr. Mark N.P. Salas

Fr. Eliazar Arteaga C., OFM

Fr. Juan Manuel Heredia Hernandez, OFM

Fr. Andres Sosa Medellin, OFM

Fr. Jose Morales Feregrino, OFM

June 4, 2021

June 6, 1987

June 6, 1997

June 6, 1997

June 6, 1998

June 8, 1984

June 9, 1973

June 9, 1984

June 11, 1976

June 12, 2021

June 13, 1992

June 13, 1994

June 14, 2017

June 19, 2009

June 19, 2010

June 19, 2020

June 23, 1968

June 24, 1966

June 24, 1979

June 27, 2002

June 28, 2018

June 28, 2018

June 29, 1972

June 29, 1974

June 29, 1978

June 29, 1996

June 29, 1999

June 29, 1999

June 29, 2004

June 29, 2011

June 29, 2011

June 29, 2017

June 30, 2007

June 30, 2007

June 30, 2010

**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 Assitance Coordinator, Mrs. Susan Martinez LCSW, at (915) 872-8465 or the Office of the Chancery, (915) 872-8407. The Church desires the healing of anyone that has been harmed.

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

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

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# Bañuelas to retire; other priests get new posts

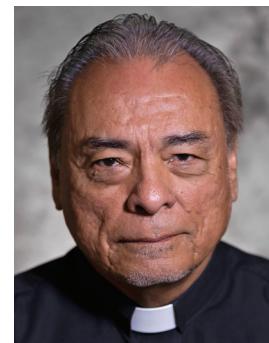
Staff report

The announcement of new pastoral assignments June 6 came with the bittersweet news of the retirement of one of the diocese's longest-serving pastors, Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas, who will retire in July after more than 46 years of service as a priest.

"There is no way to fully express our gratitude to Msgr. Bañuelas for his many years of dedicated service," Bishop Mark Seitz said, adding that Bañuelas will continue to serve the diocese in priestly ministry as needed even in retirement. "Please join me in praying that God will grant him good health and new opportunities to share him many gifts in this new chapter of his life."

In addition to three priests assuming administrator roles for the first time, eight priests will begin new assignments as parochial vicars. The diocese will also welcome Fr. Ray Finch, MM, the former superior general of the Maryknoll Priests and Brothers, as a parish administrator.

"The movement of priests and deacons is an important part of their service to the Church," Bishop Mark said.



Msgr. Bañuelas

"Transitions are never easy for clergy or for their communities, so I ask the members of the communities that are going through a change to help make that transition as smooth as possible — supporting, thanking and assisting the deacon or priest who is moving to a new assignment, and warmly welcoming the one who is joining their community."

# Diocese's own Peter Kolar receives national award

Staff report

The National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) presented Peter Kolar, director of the Diocese of El Paso's diocesan choir, with the Pastoral Musician of the Year award in May. The award is given to an individual who exemplifies the best of NPM — one who has given substantial witness or promotion to the role of pastoral music in parish, diocesan, or institutional life.

"What a pleasure it is to bestow NPM's most prestigious award on someone who has not

only impacted music and the liturgy, but continues to lead us in a dynamic and faith-filled Church," said Jennifer Kluge, NPM's executive director.

Kolar is a bilingual composer of Salvadoran-Polish heritage who has contributed much to the liturgical music landscape of the U.S., especially in his home diocese of El Paso. In addition to planning and leading the music at most diocesan liturgies here, he has also trained numerous pastoral musicians through workshops at the Tepeyac Institute, and serves on the

Diocesan Liturgical Commission. A classically-trained pianist, his solo CD *Variations* showcases technical prowess on his primary instrument, though he is equally at home enlivening the party with polkas on the accordion.

A native of Detroit, Kolar holds the position of editor for Spanish and bilingual resources at GIA Publications. Before coming to GIA, he spent 22 years with World Library Publications, where he was the founding editor of the bilingual missalette *Celebremos/Let Us Celebrate*. Peter's Mass setting *Misa Luna*, sung for



the papal liturgy in Philadelphia, is a recipient of the Distinguished Mass Setting award from the Association of Catholic Publishers.

Peter holds a masters degree in music composition from Northwestern University and resides

with his wife Mariana and two daughters in El Paso.

"What a tremendous honor it is to be recognized as Pastoral Musician of the Year," Kolar said. "I'm so grateful to NPM for the opportunity to have served over the years as one small piece of its vital mission. It is a privilege to be among a family of musicians so dedicated to their ministry and compelled by a love for the liturgy and the beauty it inspires. To be able to do make music for the glory of God and in service to the church is a wondrous gift we share."

# Músico de El Paso, Peter Kolar, recibe un premio nacional

Informe del personal

La Asociación Nacional de Músicos de Pastoral (NPM) concedió en mayo a Peter Kolar, director del coro diocesano de la Diócesis de El Paso, el premio al Músico Pastoral del Año. El premio se otorga a una persona que ejemplifica lo mejor de la NPM: alguien que ha dado un testimonio sustancial o ha promovido el papel de la música pastoral en la vida parroquial, diocesana o institucional.

"Es un placer otorgar el premio más prestigioso de NPM a alguien que no sólo ha influido en la música y la liturgia, sino que sigue guiándonos en una Iglesia dinámica y llena de fe", dijo Jennifer Kluge, directora ejecutiva de NPM.

Kolar es un compositor bilingüe de ascendencia salvadoreña-polaca que ha contribuido en gran medida al panorama de la música litúrgica de los Estados Unidos, especialmente en su diócesis local de El Paso.

Además de planificar y dirigir la música en la mayoría de las liturgias diocesanas de aquí, también ha formado a numerosos músicos pastorales a través de talleres en el Instituto Tepeyac, y forma parte de la Comisión Litúrgica Diocesana. Pianista de formación clásica, su CD en solitario *Variations* muestra su destreza técnica en su instrumento principal, aunque se siente igualmente a gusto animando la fiesta con polcas al acordeón.

Natural de Detroit, Kolar ocu-

pa el puesto de editor de recursos bilingües y en español en GIA Publications. Antes de llegar a GIA, pasó 22 años en World Library Publications, donde fue el editor fundador del misal bilingüe *Celebremos/Let Us Celebrate*. La obra de Peter *Misa Luna*, cantada para la liturgia papal en Filadelfia, ha recibido un premio de la Asociación de Editores Católicos.

Peter tiene un máster en composición musical por la Universidad Northwestern y reside con

su esposa Mariana y sus dos hijas en El Paso.

"Es un gran honor ser reconocido", dijo Kolar. "Estoy muy agradecido a NPM por la oportunidad de haber servido a lo largo de los años como una pequeña pieza de su misión vital. Es un privilegio estar entre una familia de músicos tan dedicados a su ministerio y obligados por el amor a la liturgia y la belleza que inspira. Poder hacer música para la gloria de Dios y al servicio de la Iglesia es un don maravilloso".

# Bañuelas se jubila; otros van a nuevos puestos

Informe del personal

El anuncio de las nuevas asignaciones pastorales del 6 de junio vino acompañado de la agridulce noticia de la jubilación de uno de los párrocos más veteranos de la diócesis, monseñor Arturo Bañuelas, que se retirará en julio tras más de 46 años de servicio como sacerdote.

"No hay forma de expresar plenamente nuestra gratitud a monseñor Bañuelas por sus muchos años de servicio dedicado", dijo el obispo Mark Seitz, añadiendo que Bañuelas seguirá sirviendo a la diócesis en el ministerio sacerdotal según sea necesario, incluso en su jubilación.

"Por favor, únase a mí en la oración para que Dios le conceda buena salud y nuevas oportunidades para compartir sus muchos dones en este nuevo capítulo de su vida".

Además de tres sacerdotes que asumen funciones de administración por primera vez, ocho sacerdotes comenzarán nuevas tareas como vicarios parroquiales. La diócesis también dará la bienvenida al P. Ray Finch, MM, antiguo superior general de los Sacerdotes y Hermanos de Maryknoll, como administrador parroquial.

"La reasignación de sacerdotes y diáconos es una parte importante de su servicio a la Iglesia", dijo el obispo Mark.

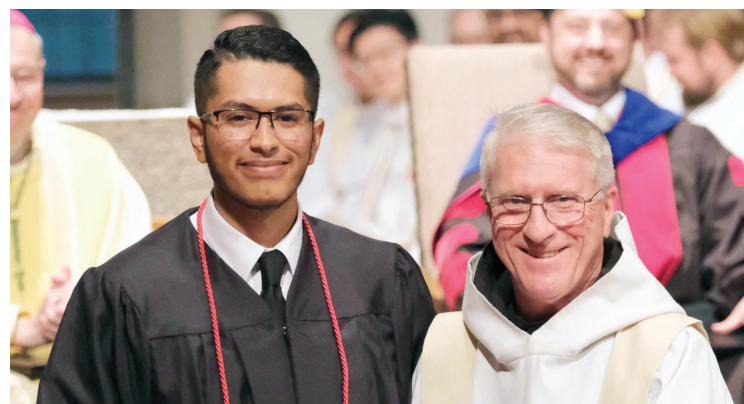
"Las transiciones nunca son fáciles para el clero ni para sus comunidades, por lo que pido a los miembros de las comunidades que están pasando por un cambio que ayuden a que esa transición sea lo más suave posible: apoyando, agradeciendo y ayudando al diácono o al sacerdote que se traslada a un nuevo destino, y acogiendo calorosamente al que se incorpora a su comunidad."

# Seminarian receives award for 'quiet service' at graduation

Staff report

Angel Crespo, a college seminarian studying for the Diocese of El Paso, received more than just his college diploma when he graduated May 13 from St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, La. He also was surprised to receive the Class of 1964 Fr. Paul Miranne Service Award, which is given each year to a graduating senior who has performed quiet service, without publicity or fanfare, during his years in seminary.

"He only needed two years to complete his studies with us. But from the very beginning, though he was quiet and behind the scenes, he was a mover and a shaker, getting things done where he saw a need in the community," said Fr. Gregory Boquet, OSB., the president-rector of Saint Joseph Seminary College. "He was, from the get go, someone who gave quiet



Seminarian Angel Crespo receives the Miranne Service Award from Fr. Matthew Clark, OSB, the vice rector of Saint Joseph Seminary College, during graduation ceremonies May 13.

leadership."

From working on the seminary's recruitment weekend, Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration, spirit week, and Día de los Muertos observance, Crespo led other seminarians, even though he didn't pursue an elected position, Boquet said.

"He took the initiative, but never once because he was try-

ing to prove anything or trying to promote himself" he said. "He very much was a strong disciple. But, a good disciple makes other good disciples and, through his leadership, he made other good disciples too."

Crespo, a native of El Paso, will continue his formation at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, Calif., in the fall.

José. "Fue, desde el principio, alguien que ejerció un liderazgo tranquilo".

Desde su trabajo en el fin de semana de reclutamiento del seminario, la celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, la semana del espíritu y la observancia del Día de los Muertos, Crespo dirigió a otros seminaristas, aunque no persiguiera un cargo electo, dijo Boquet.

"Tomó la iniciativa, pero ni una sola vez porque tratara de demostrar algo o de promoverse a sí mismo", dijo. "Era un discípulo muy fuerte. Pero un buen discípulo hace a otros buenos discípulos y, a través de su liderazgo, él también hizo a otros buenos discípulos".

Crespo, natural de El Paso, continuará su formación en el Seminario de San Juan en Camarillo, California, en otoño.

# Jornada Por La Justicia 2022: Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees

By Marisa Limón Garza  
Hope Border Institute

We are hungry.

We are just beginning to enjoy parish life again as we learn how to manage living through a pandemic that may become endemic. We are opening up our social circles, celebrating Mass together and rebuilding our lives anew.

In light of these new realities it is imperative that we nourish our faith and our community together.

The Hope Border Institute, a Catholic organization here in El Paso, is preparing a space for all of us to experience this together.

"Jornada Por La Justicia 2022: Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees" is a sacred space of learning, culture and action. We invite the faithful of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez - parishioners, ministry leaders, clergy, university students and anyone looking for ways to put faith into action to join us.

This in-person event spotlights our beautiful borderlands community through song, dance and food. The training features the celebration of the Mass with Bishop Mark Seitz, dynamic educational sessions, including a panel discussion with Monsignor Arturo Bañuelas and a public witness for human dignity. Workshops are designed in both English and Spanish and additional interpretation services will be provided.

While registration for individuals is available, those participating in the Jornada will get the deepest experience by attending as a parish.

Any parish interested in participating at this level is encouraged to contact HOPE's formation and engagement coordinator, Abi Ray at aray@hopeborder.org or 915.87.8400 to begin planning now.

Event Details:

- Friday, September 16, 2022 -

Sunday, September 18, 2022

- ESC Region 19 Head Start Center | 11670 Chito Samaniego Drive, El Paso, TX 79936
- Individual tickets - \$20
- Parish groups may receive a discounted rate

For more information and registration details visit our website at [www.hopeborder.org](http://www.hopeborder.org).

We look forward to seeing you in September!

## Special Collections / Colectas especiales

### Collection for the Diocese of Choluteca

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, June 11 and Sunday June 12, 2022, 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 11 and Sunday, June 12, 2022, 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.

### 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 25 and Sunday, June 26, 2022.

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.

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 25 and June 26, 2022 please take the opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. Thank you for your support.

### Colecta para la Diócesis de Choluteca

Habrá una Ofrenda Especial el sábado, 11 de junio y domingo, 12 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 11 y 12 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.

### Colecta del Óbolo de Pedro

La Colecta del Óbolo de Pedro 2019 para las obras del Santo Padre se realizará en todas las Misas del fin de semana del 25 de junio y del domingo 26 de junio de 2022.

Cada año, la colecta anual del Óbolo de Pedro en apoyo de las obras del Santo Padre se celebra en las parroquias de todo el país. La recaudación de esta colecta proporciona ayuda de emergencia a los más desfavorecidos: los que sufren a causa de la guerra, la opresión, la enfermedad y los desastres naturales.

Al participar en este llamamiento especial, nos unimos a más de mil millones de católicos en una expresión amorosa de solidaridad mundial. Más de 98 céntimos de cada dólar recaudado se destinan directamente a los esfuerzos espirituales y caritativos del Santo Padre en todo el mundo. El fin de semana del 25 y 26 de junio de 2022, por favor, aprovecha la oportunidad de contribuir a esta valiosa causa.

## LIVING THE LITURGY

# Godparents serve in more than just an honorary role



Fr. Michael Lewis, STL

The baptism of a child is truly a cause for celebration. The young person is freed from sin and reborn as a child of God, becomes a member of the Body of Christ, is incorporated into the Church, and is made a sharer in the Church's mission.

But the child being baptized cannot do this alone. Parents must not only give their consent, but also promise to undertake the responsibility of raising the child in the Catholic faith. And godparents, too, must promise to help the parents in this sacred duty, ready to help the newly baptized on the road of Christian life and to serve as an example of how to live it.

Nonetheless, some godparents are selected not so they can fulfill these ecclesiastical and spiritual duties, but merely as honorary titles, or because the godparent is expected to contribute financially in some way. Though these "unofficial" godparents often fill important family roles for the young person, they should not

be confused with sacramental godparents' roles, requirements, and responsibilities.

At a child's baptism, one man or one woman may serve as godparents, or a man and woman together may. Godparents must be Catholic, be at least 16 years old, have received all the sacraments of Christian Initiation (baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist), and not be the parents of the child being baptized. Other, non-sacramental or informal godparents may certainly witness a child being baptized. But only the sacramental godparents will have a role in the baptismal rites and will appear on the child's baptismal certificate and the church's baptismal register.

Because they must have the aptitude, intention, and maturity to carry out a sacred duty at the child's initiation into the Church, godparents must also be "living a life consistent with the faith and the responsibility of a godparent," the baptismal ritual explains. This means that, if married, a godparent must be in a valid Catholic marriage. It also means that a godparent must be an active member of the Church, attending Mass regularly, and be an example of the Christian way of life. The Church does not set the bar so high that only monks and nuns can become godparents. However, it does expect that the godparent believe in God, have



a relationship with God, and be able to model to the child how to live in God's love.

During the baptismal rites, the godparents will be asked if they are willing and able to help the parents in their duty to raise the child in the faith. They will also be invited, with the parents, to trace the sign of the Cross on the child's forehead, claiming the child for Christ. Later, the parents and godparents will renounce Satan and profess their faith on behalf of the child, who

is too young to do so. After the baptism, the parents and godparents are invited to light a candle from the Paschal Candle, and are then charged to keep the light of Christ always burning brightly, so that the child, "enlightened by Christ, may walk always as a child of the light."

To adequately form and prepare parents and godparents for the responsibilities they will say "Yes" to on the day of the child's baptism, churches in the Diocese of El Paso require them to attend

a pre-baptismal class. This is an important step for parents and godparents alike to understand the responsibilities they are assuming, as well as the blessings, joys and promises that come with a child's baptism. On that day, the child will be initiated into a life of faith. It is up to the parents and godparents especially, but indeed each member of the Church, to help safeguard, develop and nurture this faith throughout the child's new life in the Spirit.

## Los padrinos tienen algo más que un papel honorífico

El bautismo de un niño es un verdadero motivo de celebración. El niño se libera del pecado y renace como hijo de Dios, se convierte en miembro del Cuerpo de Cristo, se incorpora a la Iglesia y se hace partícipe de la misión de la Iglesia.

Pero el niño que se bautiza no puede hacerlo solo. Los padres no sólo deben dar su consentimiento, sino también prometer que asumirán la responsabilidad de educar al niño en la fe católica. Y también los padrinos deben prometer ayudar a los padres en este deber sagrado, dispuestos a ayudar al recién bautizado en el camino de la vida cristiana y a servir de ejemplo de cómo vivirla.

Sin embargo, algunos padrinos son seleccionados no para que cumplan estos deberes eclesiásti-

cos y espirituales, sino simplemente como títulos honoríficos, o porque se espera que el padrino contribuya económicamente de alguna manera. Aunque estos padrinos "no oficiales" suelen desempeñar importantes funciones familiares para el joven, no deben confundirse con las funciones, requisitos y responsabilidades de los padrinos *sacramentales*.

En el bautismo de un niño, un hombre o una mujer pueden actuar como padrinos, o un hombre y una mujer juntos. Los padrinos deben ser católicos, tener al menos 16 años, haber recibido todos los sacramentos de la iniciación cristiana (bautismo, confirmación y eucaristía) y no ser los padres del niño que se bautiza. Otros padrinos no sacramentales o informales pueden ciertamente presenciar el bau-

tismo de un niño. Pero sólo los padrinos sacramentales tendrán un papel en los ritos bautismales y aparecerán en el certificado de bautismo del niño y en el registro bautismal de la iglesia.

Dado que deben tener la aptitud, la intención y la madurez para cumplir un deber sagrado en la iniciación del niño en la Iglesia, los padrinos también deben llevar "una vida congruente con la fe y con la misión que va a asumir", explica el ritual bautismal. Esto significa que, si está casado, el padrino debe estar en un matrimonio católico válido. También significa que un padrino debe ser un miembro activo de la Iglesia, que asista a misa con regularidad, y que sea un ejemplo del estilo de vida cristiano. La Iglesia no pone el listón tan alto que sólo los monjes y las monjas puedan ser padrinos. Sin

embargo, espera que el padrino o la madrina crea en Dios, tenga una relación con él y sea capaz de modelar al niño cómo vivir en el amor de Dios.

Durante los ritos bautismales, se preguntará a los padrinos si están dispuestos y son capaces de ayudar a los padres en su deber de educar al niño en la fe. También se les invitará, junto con los padres, a trazar la señal de la Cruz en la frente del niño, reclamándolo para Cristo. Luego, los padres y los padrinos renunciarán a Satanás y profesarán su fe en nombre del niño, que es demasiado joven para hacerlo. Tras el bautismo, se invita a los padres y padrinos a encender una vela del Cirio Pascual, y se les encarga que mantengan siempre encendida la luz de Cristo, para que el niño, "que ha sido iluminado por Cristo, camine siempre

como hijo de la luz".

Para formar y preparar adecuadamente a los padres y padrinos para las responsabilidades a las que dirán "Sí" el día del bautismo del niño, las iglesias de la Diócesis de El Paso les exigen que asistan a una clase prebautismal. Se trata de un paso importante para que tanto los padres como los padrinos comprendan las responsabilidades que asumen, así como las bendiciones, alegrías y promesas que conlleva el bautismo de un niño. Ese día, el niño será iniciado en una vida de fe. Corresponde a los padres y a los padrinos especialmente, pero también a cada miembro de la Iglesia, ayudar a salvaguardar, desarrollar y alimentar esta fe a lo largo de la nueva vida del niño en el Espíritu.

## The Shepherd's Corner

### Gifts & Books

Hours of Operation:

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

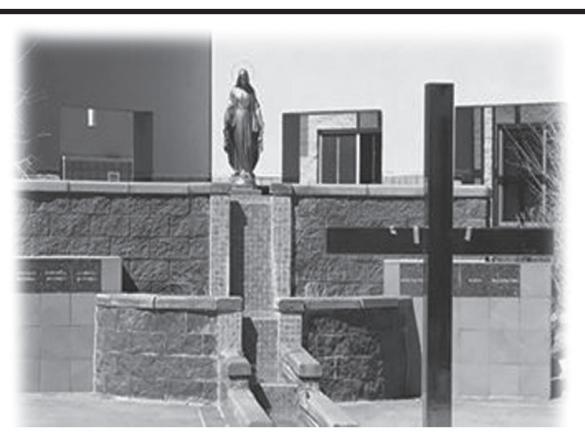
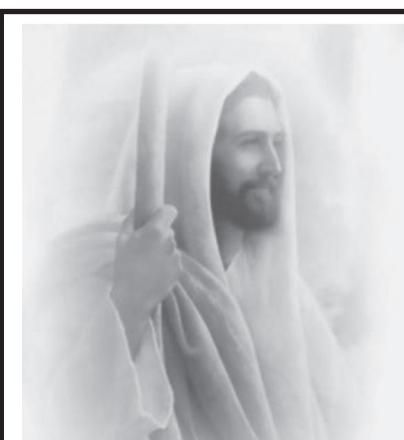
Wednesday - Friday 9 am -12 pm

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

Saturday 5 - 6

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

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



## SIDEWALK JESUS



## Janet M. Crowe

"Is it over? Did we win?" Susana asked as she rushed into the kitchen after school.

"Is what over?" responded her mother who stood by the counter pouring iced tea into glasses.

"What did we win?

"The abortion battle!" exclaimed Susana. "I heard rumors all day today that the Supreme Court might overturn *Roe v. Wade* which would mean that abortion would no longer be legal. Babies and their mothers would be safe from destruction and injury by abortionists."

"Calm down," urged her mother, handing Susana a freshly baked cookie and a glass of iced tea. "It's not that simple, even if it does come to pass."

"What do you mean?" Susana said. "I thought this is what we had been hoping for and working toward all of my life."

"All of your life and all of my life as well," said her mother. "For almost fifty years, abortion has been the accepted recourse for pregnant women facing obstacles or difficulties. Pregnancy was once a blessing, a sacred miracle entrusted to womankind,

but years of abortion-minded rhetoric has warped people's perception of this miracle of life, perverting its blessing into a curse, a pestilence to be eradicated, rather than joyfully anticipated. Because of the pro-abortion mindset, even the slightest problem that a pregnant woman might face is seen as ample justification to end the life of her unborn child rather than look for solutions to the problem or even its bigger underlying cause and, thus, create an even better life for herself and her child. Abortion has been a plague on this nation and the world for longer than every woman of child-bearing age has been alive. I'll never understand how it became so prevalent in our society."

Susana saw the pain in her mother's eyes and reached over to squeeze her mother's hand.

"I'm sorry, honey," sighed her mother. "You asked about the possible Supreme Court ruling, and I went off on a tirade. Grandma once told me that she had laughed when people worried about the *Roe v. Wade* case being considered by the Supreme Court. She told them that anyone in their right minds, anyone who had eyes to see, anyone with a brain would recognize that life begins at conception, especially since *Life* magazine had printed the amazing photographs taken by Lennart Nilsson of visual, scientific evidence of life within the womb. In 1965 Nilsson published those photographs in his book, *A Child is Born*, proving



the incredible miracle of human development before birth. I still have a copy of that book which I bought as soon as we found out we were pregnant with you."

"But now it's over, right?" asked Susana. "If the Supreme Court overrules *Roe v. Wade*, then abortion is no longer a threat to mothers and their babies. We've won, right?"

"Oh, sweetheart, I wish it were that easy," sighed her mother again. "If the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade* — and that is a big IF — then this will simply begin the next chapter in the battle to protect women and their babies."

"What?" Susana cried. "I thought it would end abortion!"

"Wouldn't that be wonderful," her mother said. "No, this just means the pro-life people of this nation will need to step up our

game, become even more visible, more available to pregnant women who are facing difficulties. We have evolved in our pro-life struggles to protect life by recognizing that we simply aren't snatching a baby and his mother away from the edge of a cliff and then our job is over. We now know that each mother faces unique obstacles, and we must address more than the urgent issue in a band-aid sort of way. Instead, we must look deeper and help her with whatever her underlying difficulties might be."

"How do we do that?" asked Susana.

"We assist her with immediate needs, of course," her mother said, "then we help each mother recognize the strength within herself to become the very best she can be. We help each mother become the hero that we know she is and help her see the hero inside herself."

"That sounds good," agreed Susana.

"That's not all," continued her mother. "We also need to help the fathers become the heroes they want to be for their families. Men want to be strong and protective, but they've been shoved aside for too long. We need to help them see that their children need both mother and father."

"Of course," Susana said, "like Dad says every Father's Day that he doesn't need any gifts because we are all the gift he needs. Then he always gives you a hug and says, 'The best present I can give my children is to show them the

love I have for their mother.' I always thought that was just Dad's way of being silly."

"Not silly, insightful," her mother said with a smile. "Luckily, we already have wonderful organizations in El Paso that are doing all of that and more."

"So, what's this next chapter you mentioned?"

"More, we do more," her mother said. "We don't sit back and say that others are doing a fine job without us. We all must promote the sanctity of life in every way possible. We do as much as we can do to protect God's children, grown and preborn. We continue to do God's will."

"So, this possible Court ruling is just the next step in an ongoing fight against evil," Susana said.

"Well, we won't let lies, greed and evil win. We will keep helping God's children because that's what He would want us to do. Each step we win weakens the evil one. So, let's get busy, shall we?"

"What's this I hear?" asked Susana's father, entering the room and giving his wife a hug. "My favorite women are battling evil. Do you need an extra hand and a mighty sword?"

"Hi, Dad," Susana said. "We can definitely use a sword of truth in this fight!"

"I am at your service!" her father said, hugging his daughter.

Happy Father's Day to all Dads who light the way in valuing and protecting those who need a helping hand, a mighty sword, or a loving hug!

## GUEST COLUMN

## An opportunity to build a Culture of Life

By Mark Cavaliere  
Southwest Coalition for Life

In an unprecedented breach of policy from the United States Supreme Court, on May 2, a draft majority opinion for the recent case *Dobbs v. Jackson* was leaked to the public, revealing the court's intent to reverse *Roe v. Wade*. For over 49 years, this court decision has overruled state laws to ban induced abortion, leading to over 65 million abortions that have been allowed, protected, and in many cases even funded by the government.

In the draft, Justice Samuel Alito called *Roe* "egregiously wrong from the start," emphasizing that it "was more than just wrong. It stood on exceptionally weak grounds." Alito explains that the U.S. Constitution clearly does not confer a right to abortion, stating that "the Court usurped" this issue from the people in 1973, and stresses repeatedly that "it is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion... to the people and their elected representatives."

Pro-life advocates are cautiously optimistic that the draft

indicates a major victory towards our larger mission of building a Culture of Life, but are largely unsure of the legal and strategic implications of this change after nearly 50 years of praying to overturn *Roe*.

As Justice Alito explains, the reversal of the Court's opinion fully returns the issue of abortion back to the people and their elected representatives, to be legislated at the state level just like all other acts of violence. Many states have had abortion bans still in place since 1973 which have been unenforceable due to *Roe vs Wade* and will become active again.

Texas recently passed the Human Life Protection Act, a trigger bill which will ban all abortions soon after *Roe vs Wade* is officially overruled. On the other hand, New Mexico recently removed a pre-1973 abortion ban in order to continue allowing abortion up to the day of birth for any reason, even for minors without parental consent. Abortion in New Mexico is even subsidized by state tax dollars, and is unregulated with little medical oversight. The abor-

tion industry has already been actively changing their tactics to exploit this loophole to target the NM/TX state line with new and dangerous strategies.

Clearly, while the overruling of *Roe v. Wade* removes a major hurdle towards building a Culture of Life, we must not make the mistake of thinking that our work is done to help women who feel they have no other choice but abortion, especially here in the Borderland where El Paso is quickly becoming the gateway to abortion for Texas women traveling to New Mexico.

As Catholics, our faith has compelled us from the first century with the unchangeable teaching to protect life from the moment of conception. Pope Francis has even gone so far as to say, "Defend the unborn against abortion even if they persecute you, calumniate you, set traps for you, take you to court or kill you."

In order to do this, we must first begin by defending women and their natural rights. For the past 50 years, *Roe v. Wade* has derailed progress towards true social justice for women.

In 1973, rather than solving the injustices that women were facing, nine men on the Supreme Court instead placed an expectation on women to alter, suppress, and destroy the normal healthy functions of her natural body and life cycle in order to be "successful" in conforming to male-based norms in the workplace and society. Consequently, fertility is treated like a disease to be suppressed, pregnancy is treated like a cancer or a commodity, childbirth is medicated to reduce hospital liabilities, and parenting is seen as a barrier to success.

They also made this decision before ultrasounds and medical advancements proving that life begins at conception, NICU technologies which have moved viability to 21 weeks, and endocrinology which has revealed the hormonal effects of abortion trauma on the mental and physical well-being of women.

Now, with the potential overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, we have an opportunity to update the law of the land to better reflect our modern understanding of women's healthcare and rightfully shift the expectation to

employers and society to instead adapt and conform to support the normal healthy functions of a woman's natural body and lifecycle. Imagine employers and universities who offer paid time off, flexible schedules, and compassionate attitudes to accommodate women's menstrual cycles, maternity leave, and breastfeeding needs, with healthcare that empowers her to embrace, rather than distrust her natural body.

Regardless of laws and courts, this is how we truly make abortion unthinkable, because women deserve better than abortion. Now is our time to step up and do more than we ever have to make this a reality.

*Mark Cavaliere is the Founder and CEO of the Southwest Coalition for Life, which recently announced a merger with Guiding Star El Paso to better reach abortion-vulnerable women and couples to provide them with free, comprehensive, and life-affirming care, non-judgmental support, and pro-active education based on Catholic principles.*

## VIDA DEL ESPIRITU



Padre Wilson Cuevas

**P**ara todo se necesita sabiduría: Para conservar y para innovar, para cambiar y para permanecer. Quien se cierra al cambio se cierra a la vida. No es cambiando de lugar sino de actitud como se solucionan las crisis. En lo profundo del corazón humano es donde se debe darse una transformación iluminada por la fe e inspirada en el amor. Esa transformación interior pide sencillez, para reconocer mis fortalezas y mis debilidades, también es necesario un firme compromiso que se traduzca en acciones nuevas y positivas. Sin un plan de acción todo se diluye en hermosas promesas. Recuerda, nunca es tarde para cambiar y renacer.

Creo que aprender cosas nuevas añadirá interés y placer en la vida de cualquier persona, empezando con cosas tan sencillas. Como el significado de nuevas palabras; nuevos pasatiempos; comer cosas diferentes, intentar hacer algo que nos gusta, conocer nuevos lugares establecer nuevas amistades y conversar acerca de otros temas... Sabes, que mucha gente llevan vidas tristes, estancadas y simplemente porque han dejado de aprender. No ejercitan la curiosidad, ampliar sus horizontes; no hacen nada nuevo, cada día se parece al anterior. La misma rutina, el mismo modo de pensar, las mismas actividades y quizás los mismos lamentos.

Una de las cosas más fáciles que pueden hacer para darle un cambio significativo a sus vidas es tomar la decisión de aprender cosas nuevas, emocionantes, diferentes. No tiene que ser algo

grande y complicado; podría ser algo tan simple como aprender una nueva rutina de ejercicio, plantar un huerto o como hacer más con su computadora o celular, o que enviar correo electrónicos o textos, es diferente para cada persona, pero si se dedica a aprender con regularidad, se sorprenderá de cuanta diversión tendrá en el descubrimiento de cosas nuevas. Una de las cosas que elijo para aprender algo nuevo es ver documentales. Hay incontables historias acerca de personas maravillosas o gente que ha pasado por eventos muy trágicos y ha tomado la decisión que estos no los amarguen; se pueden encontrar documentales de lugares donde nunca ha ido, de animales, de la naturaleza, del espacio, de cómo funciona el cuerpo humano. Esas historias no solo son interesantes son inspiradoras.

He descubierto que escuchar música, sobre todo música religiosa, de mensaje es fascinante para sentir de un modo distinto la presencia de Dios, igual que algunas enseñanzas bíblicas o predicaciones, mientras me afeito y me arreglo cada mañana para salir... Si piensas que no tiene tiempo para aprender nuevas cosas te equivocas. Aprenda a usar el poder de la media hora; es sorprendente lo que podemos lograr si usamos quince minutos por aquí o por allá o los treinta minutos que están disponibles entre una cita y otra. Estos son los tiempos que desperdiciamos muchas veces y que podríamos usar de manera productiva.

Aprenda más acerca de Dios! mientras más aprendamos de Dios, más cerca de Él podemos estar. El Apóstol Pablo dijo que su propósito en la vida era conocer a Jesús y el poder de su Resurrección (vea Filipenses 3,10). Este versículo de la Biblia es tan poderoso que nunca deberíamos cansarnos de meditarlo, esperando comprenderlo mejor.

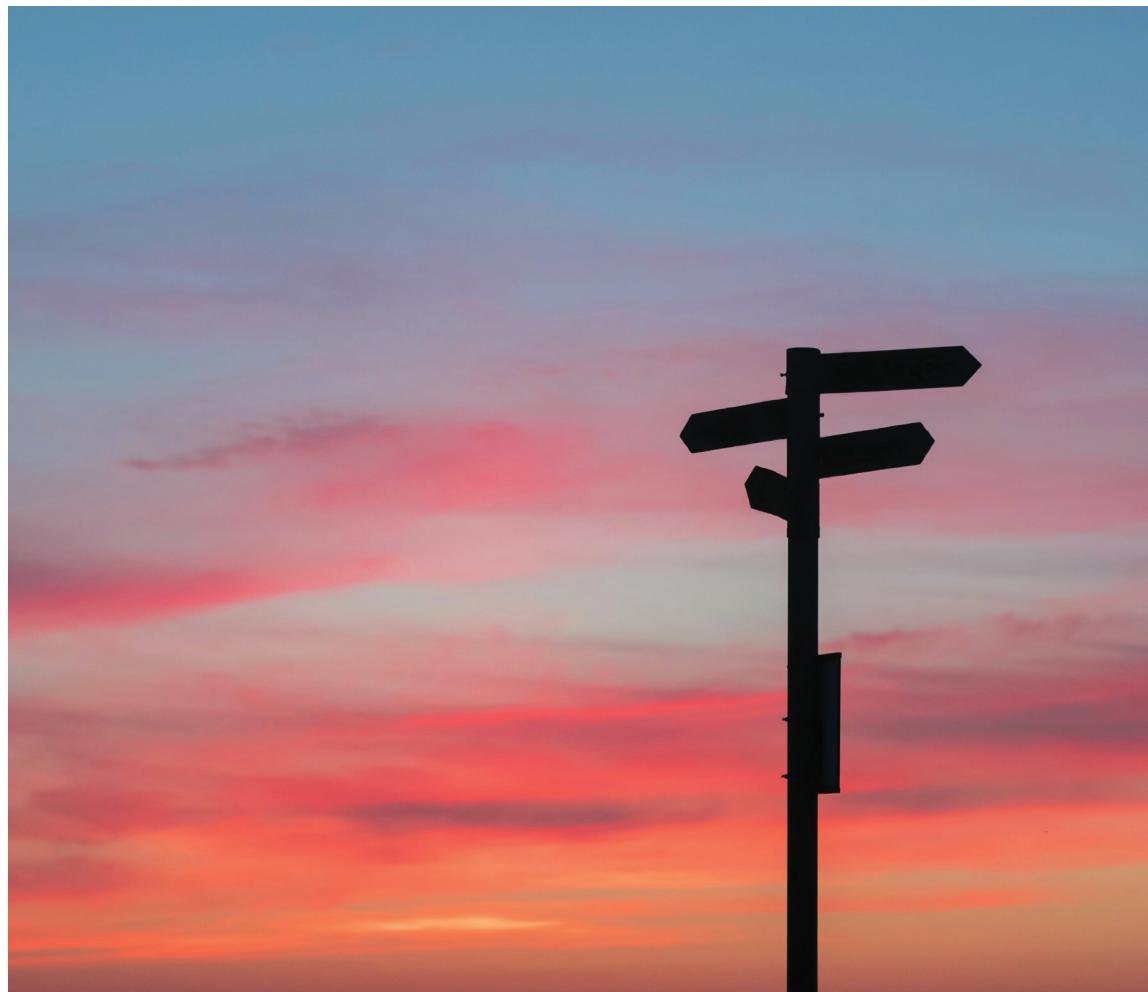
No busques solo a Dios en las tragedia, descubre su amor, poder y sus grandes maravillas. El es en incontables maneras un Padre bondadoso con todos sus hijos y a través de ese conocimiento, desarrolla una relación más cercana e íntima con El. Si estás interesado en aprender acerca de Dios, permíteme sugerirte algunas pistas: El primer libro que escribió Dios es la creación. Observa todo lo mas que puedes del universo, allí verás lo maravilloso que es Dios creador. Si te detienes a estudiar cómo funciona el cuerpo humano, el cerebro, los ojos, el odio, los pulmones, el corazón, etc. El cuerpo humano es la obra magistral de Dios; luego vete al otro libro que escribió Dios, la Biblia, es la carta de amor más larga que existe y se escribió para ti y para mí, léela con fe y amor pídele al Espíritu

Santo que te ilumine para entender los mensajes de Dios para ti. Recuerda que existen muchos cursos de Biblia muy interesantes y didácticos, gratis los consiguen en internet y en algunas plataformas, que son de gran ayuda para conocer más de Dios y de su plan de salvación que viene realizando desde que creó el mundo. Hay un sin número de cosas que se puede sugerir para aprender más de Dios... Mientras más aprendas acerca de Él. Mas te convence de cuánto te ama y más te vuelve como Él y este debe ser el objetivo de todo hijo de Dios, su amor es eterno!

Otra cosa importante es Aprender más de ti mismo, usted es una obra maravillosa de Dios, pero quizás no lo sepa. Si busca información acerca de cómo funciona el cuerpo humano y para que lo crea Dios. El ser humano

es un milagro viviente y claramente muestra cuán maravilloso es su Creador.

Sabía que usted es único y que no hay nadie sobre la tierra que sea exactamente como usted... Y que Dios lo diseñó cuidadosamente con sus propias manos en el vientre de su madre (vea Salmo 139). Nadie que quiera aprender tiene más herramientas disponibles ahora que en cualquier otra época de la historia. Abundan en internet, información de todo tipo, que pueden ser útiles para aprender más de sí mismo y de los demás. Lo Único que queda es empezar, estoy seguro que si pone en práctica estas sugerencias, su vida cambiará y vivirá más contento y agradecido por el regalo de la vida. Y cada día podrá decirle a Dios: gracias por cada instante que me dejas vivir!



# Knowing How to Change

**Y**ou need Wisdom for everything: To conserve and to innovate, to change or to remain the same. Whoever is closed to change is closed to life. Crises are resolved not by a changing of location but of attitude. Deep in the human heart is where there should be a transformation illuminated by faith and inspired by love. This inner transformation requires simplicity, to recognize my strengths and my weaknesses. You also need a firm commitment that translates into new and positive actions. Without a plan for action everything dissolves into just beautiful promises. Remember, it's never too late to change and be reborn.

I think that learning new things adds interest and pleasure to the life of any person, starting with

such simple things as the meaning of new words; new pastimes; eating and trying different foods; trying something that we enjoy; visiting new places; developing new friends and talking about other topics ... You know, a lot of people live very sad and stagnant lives and this is simply because they have stopped learning. They don't exercise their curiosity to broaden their horizons; they don't try anything new, each day looks like the day before. The same routine, the same way of thinking, the same activities and maybe the same regrets ...

One of the easiest things one can do to make a significant change in one's life is to decide to learn new, exciting and different things. It doesn't have to be something big and complicated; it could be something as simple

as learning a new exercise routine, planting a garden or doing more with your computer or cell phone other than sending emails or texts; of course, it is different for each person, but if you dedicate yourself to learn something new with regularity, you'll be surprised how much fun you'll have in discovering new things.

One of the ways I choose to learn something new is to watch documentaries. There are countless stories about wonderful people or individual persons who have experienced very tragic events and have made the decision that these will not make them bitter; you can find documentaries of places where perhaps you have never been, of animals, of nature, of outer space, of how the human body works. These stories are not only

interesting they are inspiring.

I have discovered that listening to music, especially religious music with a message, is fascinating to feel the presence of God in a different way, just as some Bible teachings or preaching, this while I shave and get ready every morning to go out ... If you think that you don't have time to learn new things you are mistaken. Learn to use the power of a half hour; it's amazing what we can achieve if we use fifteen minutes here or there or the thirty minutes that are available between one appointment and another. These are the ways we waste much time and that we could use in a more productive way.

Learn more about God! The more we learn about God, the closer to Him we can be. The

Apostle Paul said that his purpose in life was to know Jesus and the power of his Resurrection (see Philippians 3:10). This Bible verse is so powerful that we should never tire of meditating on it, hoping to understand it better. Don't look for God only during difficult times; but discover his love, power and his great wonders. He is in countless ways a benevolent Father with all his children and through that knowledge you will develop a closer and more intimate relationship with Him. If you are interested in learning more about God, allow me to suggest some clues: The first book that God wrote is the creation. Observe the universe as much as you can; there you'll see how wonderful God our

Continued on Page 11

## New fund honors diocese's Filipino heritage

By Sofia Larkin  
Major Gifts Officer

The Catholic Foundation is honored to welcome the Jomel A. Francisco Fund and the Luis and Teena Mendiola Fund for the Filipino-American Endowment Fund, established in 2008.

Part of the Foundation's Catholic Legacy Fund, the Filipino-American Endowment Fund is a legacy to the Filipino heritage and provides annual support for retired priests and vocations in perpetuity.

You can contribute to the Filipino-American Endowment Fund in any amount or create a Named Fund with a gift of \$10,000 or more. There is no minimum requirement to contribute to an existing endowed fund. Gifts of any size are welcome, and are vital to the Filipino community's mission.

Endowed funds established through the Catholic Foundation ensure that the corpus of the donation is preserved, while income earned on the investment is available for use each year for the beneficiary. They



are excellent vehicles for donors wishing to provide long-term support for parishes, schools, ministries, and charities in the Diocese of El Paso.

The local Filipino community will commemorate Philippines Independence Day on June 12. The Philippines, consisting of more than 7,000 separate islands in the western Pacific, declared independence from Spanish rule over 120 years ago.

The Filipino Catholic community gathers for the Pinoy Mass at St. Raphael Parish every first or second Saturday of the month at 5:30pm. The

Mass, celebrated in Filipino with accompanying music in the national language, stirs a different spirituality for Filipinos than attending Mass in English, and makes them feel a closeness to home and family. The celebration is followed by delicious Filipino food and fellowship.

Pagpalain sana tayo ng Panginoon. May the Lord our God bless us.

Contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin for assistance with making the gift that is right for you. You can reach her directly at (915) 433-2003 or you can send an email to slarkin@catholicfoundationelpaso.org.

## Getting to know permanent deacons

By Tina Edwards-Milam  
Annual Appeal Director

The mission of the Church is only made possible through your continued sacrificial generosity and support.

The success of the 2022 Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal depends on the thousands of donors who support the appeal each year. Because of your generous donations, we are able to continue supporting 15 ministries and thousands of families throughout the community.

The Permanent Diaconate program is just one of the beautiful ministries that are supported through your generous gifts.

The role of the permanent deacons of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso, humbly and joyfully spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Deacons are ordained to participate in the mission of Jesus to serve the people of God through the diaconal ministries of charity and justice, the word of the Lord, and liturgy.

Deacons dedicate themselves to building community and expanding the reign of God

under the leadership of the Bishop of El Paso. They give of themselves in loving service to the people in our local churches along the border and in the cities and rural communities of West Texas.

Formation to the Permanent Diaconate is a four-year program. As a ministers of service, permanent deacons collaborate in responding to the ministerial needs of the diocese — beautiful works that are offered through your continued sacrificial generosity and support!

Please pray for the success of the 2022 Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal and, if your circumstances permit, consider making a gift or pledge of any size. Your contributions are deeply appreciated, very much needed, and will make a difference in the lives of many!

If you have not made your donation to this year's Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal, please do so today by visiting [www.2022progress.org](http://www.2022progress.org) or calling us at 915-872-8412.



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# Foundation invites community to the Table of the Lord

**By Karina Sandoval**  
Stewardship Coordinator

The Catholic Foundation is launching the “Take Your Place at The Table of The Lord” campaign to invite the community to the Eucharist and discover how faith life can be experienced today as we enter a new era after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The campaign is focused on inviting people to the Eucharist, a life of community, and the practice of our faith. Examples of this are receiving the sacraments, the practice of ministry, and different ways to practice prayer life.

According to the 2021 Diocesan Mass Attendance Count, an average of 51,000 individuals attend Sunday Mass in person and more than 10,000 individuals view Mass online or at the local El Paso television stations, TV Azteca and the CW.

In February of this year, Notre Dame theologian Tim O’ Malley gave a presentation to the Diocese of El Paso on the importance of receiving the Eucharist. O’ Malley said, “Real Presence matters after Covid-19 because we are meant to be present to the Lord and we are meant to be present to one another.” O’Malley’s presentation is available on the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso’s YouTube Channel.

“Take Your Place at The Table of The Lord” campaign materials will be distributed at diocesan and parish levels this month. If you’re interested in supporting this campaign, and continuing the work of evangelization in your workplace and on social media, contact Stewardship Coordinator Karina Sandoval at ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org or (915) 872-8412.

learn more about yourself, you are a wonderful creation of God, but maybe you don’t know it. If you search information about how the human body works and why God created it. The human being is a living miracle and clearly proves how wonderful is your creator.

Did you know that you are unique and that there is no one on earth that is exactly like you... And that God designed it carefully with his bare hands in the womb of your mother (see Psalm 139). No one who wants to learn has more tools available now than in any other time in history. They abound on the internet, information on everything on every topic, which can be useful to learn more about yourself and others. The only thing that

remains is to start, I am sure if you put it into practice these suggestions your life will change and you will live happier and more grateful for the gift of life. And each day could tell God: thank you for every moment you allow me to live!

Another important thing is to

**Por Karina Sandoval**  
Coordinadora en  
Corresponsabilidad

La Fundación Católica lanza la campaña “Toma Tu Lugar en La Mesa del Señor” para invitar a la comunidad a la Eucaristía y descubrir la vida de fe que se puede experimentar hoy en día después de la pandemia del Covid-19.

La campaña se enfoca en invitar a la comunidad de El Paso a la Eucaristía, a una vida de comunidad y a la práctica de fe en las parroquias. Ejemplos tales como, recibir los sacramentos, la práctica del ministerio y diferentes tipos de oración que se pueden realizar.

De acuerdo al conteo diocesano de asistencia en Misa del 2021, un promedio de 51,000 individuos asisten a Misa en persona, y más de 10,000 individuos asisten a Misa en línea a través de las redes sociales o en las estaciones de televisión local, TV Azteca y CW.

En Febrero de este año, el teólogo de la Universidad de Notre Dame, Tim O’ Malley ofreció una presentación a la Diócesis de El Paso sobre la importancia de recibir la Eucaristía. O’ Malley dijo, “La

Presencia Real importa después de la pandemia del Covid-19, porque estamos hechos para estar presentes para el Señor y para los unos con los otros.” Su presentación se encuentra disponible en el canal de YouTube de la Fundación Católica para la Diócesis de El Paso.

Los materiales de la campaña “Toma Tu Lugar en La Mesa del



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Los materiales de la campaña “Toma Tu Lugar en La Mesa del

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THE TABLE  
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*Your Place  
Awaits You*



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LA MESA  
DEL  
SEÑOR**

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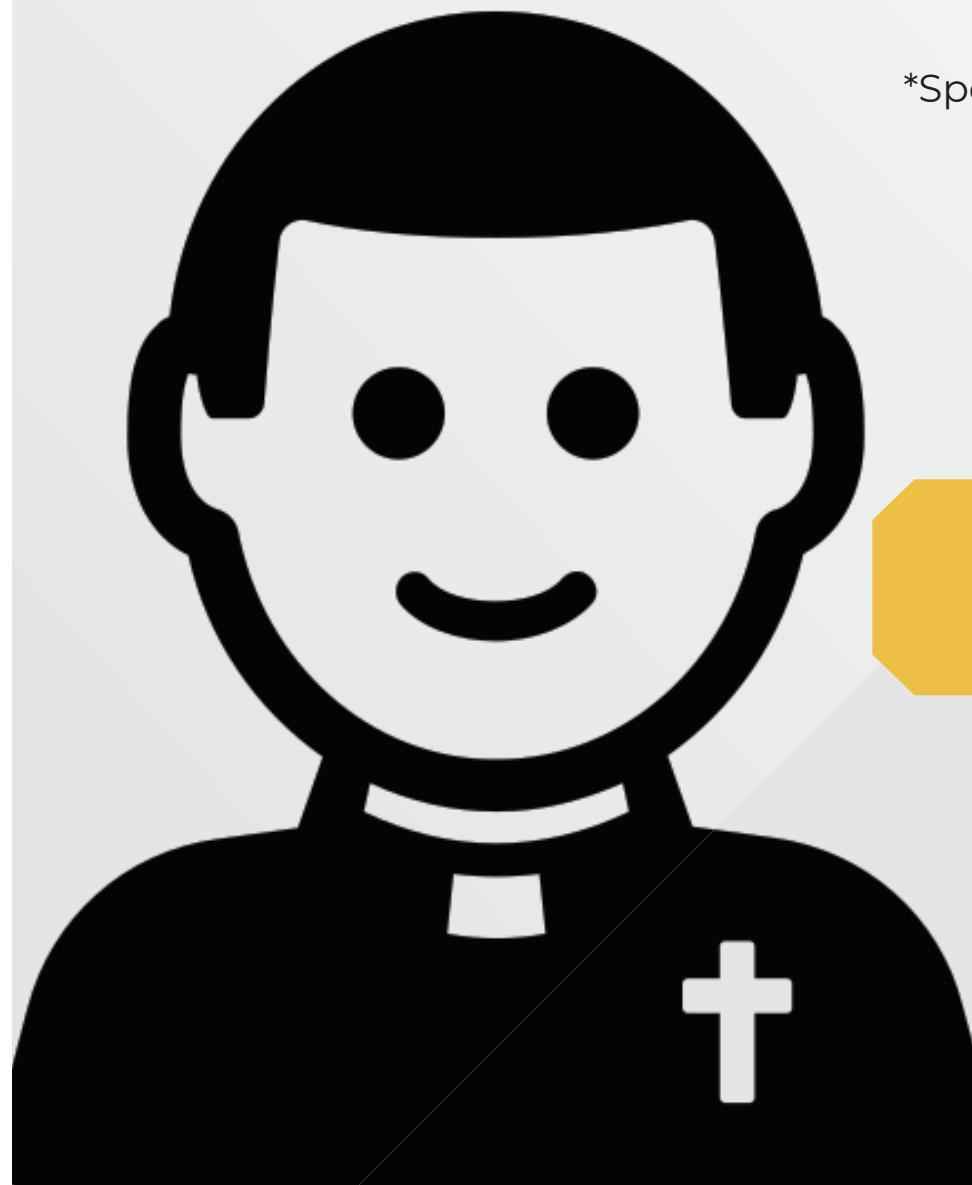
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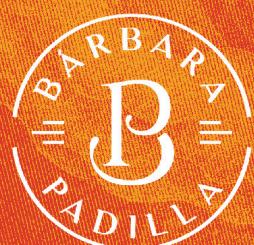
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