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March 2019



Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, D.D. Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso joins Bishop Guadalupe Torres, Bishop of the Diocese of Juarez in the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving for the anniversary of Pope Francis' visit to Ciudad Juarez in 2016. Photo by Fernie Ceniceros

## Holy Spirit Catholic Church Celebrates Groundbreaking



## HOPE Border Institute Reps Visit Guatemala



# The Call of the Lord Comes When You Least Expect It

Imagine for a second that you are about finished with Sunday Mass. Father gives his final blessing and proceeds to the front of the altar for the final recessional. Then out of nowhere, a toddler-aged boy appears right next to Father as he's preparing to bow to the altar. The little boy, not older than three, wants nothing more than to participate.

So what does Father do? Well, the most logical thing: he holds the boy's hand, they bow to the altar together. Together they process out; Father, in a green chasuble and the little boy, beaming, ready to greet the people at the end of mass.

My parents must have been beside themselves with embarrassment, but that little determined boy in diapers was me, and that priest on that and many Sundays after was Father Trini Fuentes, current rector at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

I tell this little story about myself not to show what a cute little Catholic I was, but to give

you an insight into the recurring theme that I have been reflecting on and living in over the last few weeks. This theme is: no matter how far away you are from home, The Lord will find a

my childhood. I later came to St. Pius X with the Revelation Music ministry, playing drums in my early 20's. Around that time, I heard the call of the Lord and began seminary formation at

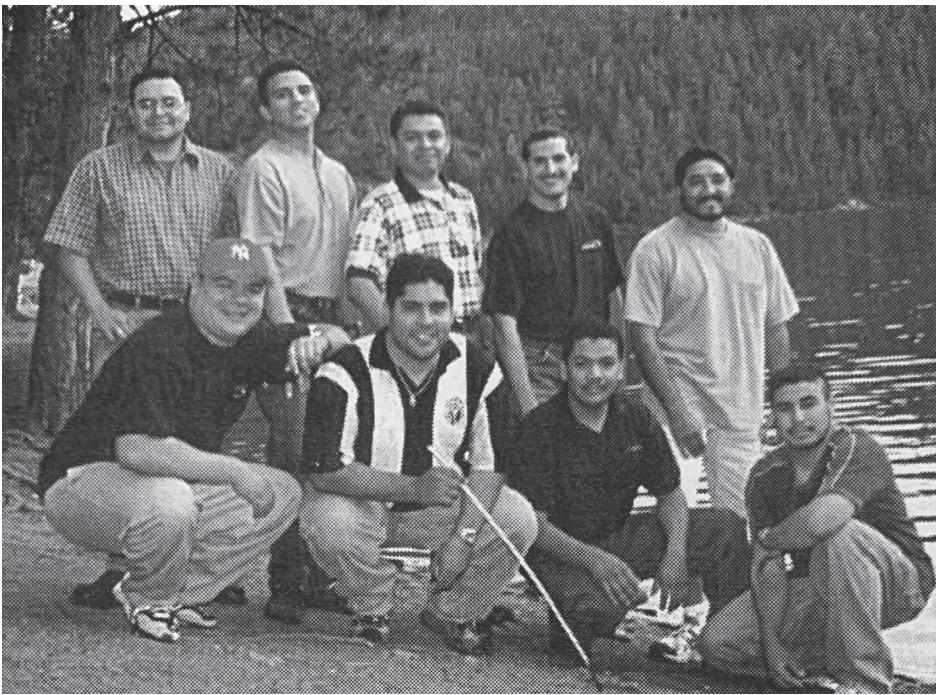
is where discernment led me.

Shortly afterwards, I joined a band and had the time of my life playing music all over El Paso. At the same time, I was hired at the Ysleta Independent School District as a Multimedia Technician. My job mostly consisted of wrapping cables and being a "GoFor", but it was a job that helped fund my band.

So why am I not a world-famous drummer? Well, my band broke up not long after I started working for YISD, and that entry-level job turned into the first 10 years of my career as a multi media specialist.

After those 10 years, the Lord placed me in the Socorro Independent School District. In those six years as a proud member of #TeamSISD, I honed my craft in multimedia, and learned from the best in the public relations business. I did not know it then, but those long hours of work and sacrifice were the Lord preparing me for my next endeavor...The Diocese of El Paso, my second home.

Almost 16 years after leaving the seminary, I am now back in the diocese. Over the last few weeks, it has been an extraordinary experience to see so many familiar faces. It has filled my heart with joy to see the hand of the God at work through the many familiar people in this diocese.



During my first Seminarians retreat in July of 2000 in Ruidoso, NM.

way to bring you back.

I grew up and received my Sacraments at Santa Lucia Catholic Church in the lower valley. Throughout that time I met many influential young seminarians, such as Confirmation God Father, Fr. Ralph Solis, Fr. Frank Lopez, Fr. Ben Flores, and many others that influenced

the age of 22 under Father John Telles at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

In those years I learned how to discern the call of the Lord. That discernment led me to leave the seminary after two years. It was probably one of the toughest decisions I ever made in my life to that point, but that



**Editor's Column**  
Fernie Ceniceros

I am extremely humbled to have been named by our Bishop as the editor of this newspaper. I ask for your prayers as I begin this next chapter of my life and what seems to be the culmination of my discernment prayers for my vocation almost 17 years later.

So thank you, Fr. Ben, Fr. John, Fr. Frank and Fr. Ralph for being the great Catholic influences in my life, especially in my formative years. I'd also like to give a special thank you Father Trini, for holding my hand as a toddler, and showing me that all are welcome to the call of service to the Lord. You may not have known it then, but you helped me begin this long journey in service to the people of God in the Diocese of El Paso.

## El Llamado del Señor Llega Cuando Menos lo Esperas

Imagina por un segundo que estás a punto de terminar la Misa dominical. El sacerdote da su bendición final y se dirige a la parte frontal del altar para la recesión final. Luego, de la nada, un niño de corta edad aparece justo al lado del sacerdote, mientras se prepara para inclinarse ante el altar, el niño no mayor de tres años no quiere nada más que participar con él.

Entonces, ¿qué hace el sacerdote? bueno, lo más lógico, toma la mano del niño, se inclina ante el altar y se dirige hacia la salida. El sacerdote, en su casulla verde y el pequeño niño, saliendo en recesión, sonriendo, listo para saludar a la gente al final de la Misa.

Mis padres debieron haberse sentido muy avergonzados, ese pequeño niño decidido y en pañales, era yo y el sacerdote ese día, hace ya muchos domingos después, era el padre Trini Fuentes, actual rector de la catedral de San Patricio.

Yo cuento esta pequeña historia sobre mí, no para demostrar lo lindo que era yo de pequeño, sino para darles una idea del tema recurrente en el que he estado reflexionando y viviendo en las últimas semanas. Este tema es: "No importa lo lejos que esté uno de su hogar, el Señor encontrará la manera de traerte de regreso".

Crecí y recibí mis sacramentos en la iglesia católica de Santa Lucía en el "Lower Valley" (valle bajo) de El Paso. A

lo largo de ese tiempo, conocí a muchos jóvenes seminaristas

dre John Telles, en el Seminario San Carlos Borromeo.

Distrito Independiente Escolar de Ysleta, como técnico en multimedia.

Mi trabajo básicamente consistía en desenrollar cables e "ir a por todo", pero era un trabajo y ayudaba a sostener a mi banda.

Entonces, ¿por qué no soy un baterista de fama mundial? bueno, mi banda se separó poco

días después de comenzar a trabajar para el YISD y ese trabajo de nivel de entrada de datos se convirtió en los primeros 10 años de mi carrera como especialista en multimedia.

Después de esos 10 años, el Señor me colocó en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Socorro. En esos seis años como orgulloso miembro del Equipo SISD, perfeccioné mi arte en multimedia y aprendí de los mejores en el negocio de las relaciones públicas. Entonces no

lo sabía, pero esas largas horas de trabajo y sacrificio fueron las que el Señor me preparó para mi próximo esfuerzo... La Diócesis de El Paso, mi segundo hogar.

Casi 16 años después de dejar el seminario, ahora estoy de vuelta en la diócesis. En las últimas semanas, he tenido una experiencia extraordinaria al ver a tantas caras conocidas. Ha llenado mi corazón de alegría al ver la mano de Dios obrando a través de las muchas personas conocidas en esta diócesis.

Me siento sumamente honrado de haber sido nombrado editor de este periódico, por nuestro Señor Obispo. Les pido sus oraciones al estar iniciando este próximo capítulo de mi vida y lo que parece ser la culminación de mis oraciones de discernimiento por mi vocación, casi 17 años después.

Así que gracias, Padre Ben, Padre John, Padre Frank y Padre Ralph, por haber sido una gran influencia católica en mi vida, especialmente en mis años de formación. También me gustaría ofrecer un agradecimiento especial al Padre Trini, por sostener mi mano cuando era un niño tan pequeño y por mostrarme que todos somos bienvenidos a la llamada de servicio al Señor. Puede que tú no lo supieras entonces, pero me ayudaste a comenzar este largo viaje al servicio de la gente de Dios en la Diócesis de El Paso.

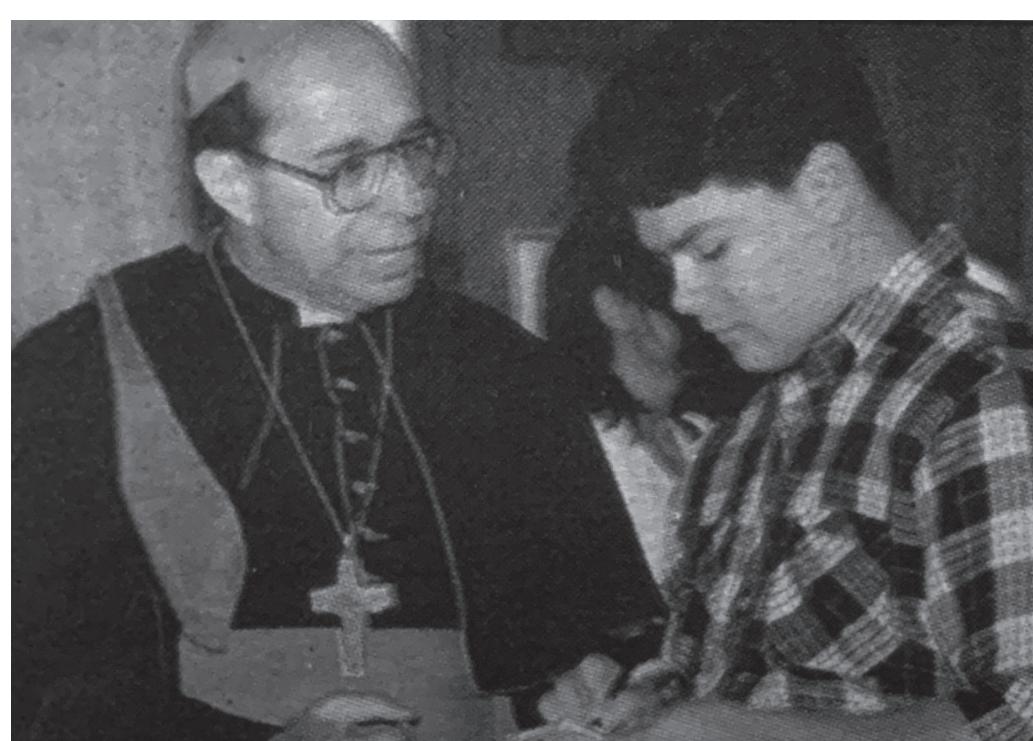


Foto tomada con el Obispo Ochoa durante su instalación en 1996, mientras era reportero de The Rio Grande Catholic.

influyentes, como fue mi padrino de confirmación, el Padre Ralph Solis, el Padre Frank López, el Padre Ben Flores y muchos otros, quienes influyeron en mi infancia. Más tarde, llegué a la parroquia San Pío X., con el ministerio de música, "Revelación", tocando la batería a principios de mis 20's. Alrededor de ese tiempo escuché el llamado del Señor y comencé mi formación en el seminario, contando con 22 años de edad y bajo el mando del Pa-

En esos años aprendí a discernir el llamado del Señor. Ese discernimiento me llevó a abandonar el seminario después de dos años. Probablemente fue una de las decisiones más difíciles que he tenido que tomar en mi vida, hasta ese momento, pero ahí es donde el discernimiento me llevó.

Poco después ingrese a una banda de música y disfrute enormemente tocando música en todo El Paso. Al mismo tiempo, fui contratado por el

# 'Give Up' for Lent

"What will I give up this Lent?" This is the question with which many of us enter into our Lenten journey. We were taught long ago that if we are to be good Catholics we need to "give up" something.

Now it is not my intention to dissuade you from this time-tested practice. You will hear many today suggesting that you should do something positive for Lent. This is also a very good idea. Even if you do decide to undertake some service or almsgiving for the season, I would encourage you to give something up. But I would like to suggest that you consider a little more deeply the reason you do it.

Many of us have taken childhood notions of our religious practice into adulthood. Just like our clothes, these understandings need to grow with us or we are going to find ourselves with nothing that really serves our adult needs. We very often came to see our Lenten sacrific-

es as something we could do to prove our willpower or to prove our devotion to God. Perhaps we even understood it as a way to earn points in our heavenly savings account. We gave up things we liked that were not necessarily very good for us, like candy or Coke. That was a good plan, but over time the reasons for our sacrifice may have morphed into something more for our personal well-being than an action directed to God's service.

Allow me to suggest a deeper way to look at your Lenten sacrifices. Instead of doing them as a way to win God's favor, why not do it as a way to reflect in your life Jesus' own self-giving? By 'giving up,' enter into union with the One who "though he was rich, yet for your sake became poor" (II Cor. 8:9), who gave up everything in order to raise us up to salvation. In other words, do not give up things to save yourself (that is impossible). Give up things so

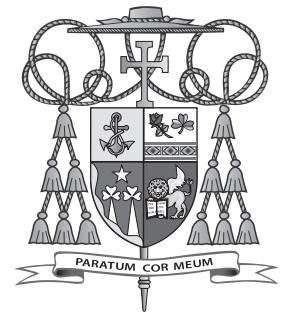
that you can participate more fully in the salvation Jesus won by his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Do you want advice on what kind of sacrifices would be the most fruitful? Make sacrifices that help you to identify with the poor. Think about the things you have that a poor person has to do without; things that you might consider necessary for your happiness, but which in reality are excess baggage. I could suggest a long list, but that would be mine. You need to make your own. As you then make those sacrifices, think about those who make them daily, not by choice, but by necessity—and pray for them. Your prayer just may move you to serve them and then your "giving up" will make you even more like your Lord and Master.

By our Lenten Sacrifices, we join ourselves to Christ as during this holy Season. We recall and relive what he has sacrificed for us. More than that, Jesus allows us in some way to be cooperators with him through our own free acceptance of hardships, either freely chosen

or those that simply come with every life. As St. Paul so boldly proclaims, "...in my own flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ

Lent and mine could become if our sacrifices were no longer our feeble efforts but were transformed into actions that unite us with the work by which



## InSeitz Into The Faith Bishop Mark J. Seitz

on behalf of his body, which is the church." (Col. 1:24) What could possibly be lacking in Jesus' Sacrifice? Only one thing: Our participation in it! We recognize that accepting trustingly the sufferings and hardships that come our way and by voluntarily offering others in some small humble ways we can unite ourselves with him.

Imagine how fruitful your

Jesus is at work saving the world. We would find ourselves not only united to him, but to all the holy people of God who are his Body. If we unite ourselves with the suffering Christ by joyfully giving up something we do not need this Lent, we can trust that the rejoicing that comes with Easter will be very near.

Bp. Mark

# "Renunciar" para la Cuaresma

"¿A qué renunciaré en esta Cuaresma?" Esta es la pregunta con la que muchos de nosotros nos encontramos en nuestro viaje durante la Cuaresma. Hace mucho tiempo nos enseñaron que si queremos ser buenos católicos debemos "renunciar" a algo.

Ahora que, no es mi intención disuadirete de esta práctica probada por el tiempo. Hoy escucharás a muchos sugiriéndote que debes hacer algo positivo para la Cuaresma. Esta es también una muy buena idea. Incluso si decides emprender algún servicio o limosna para la temporada, yo te animo a que renuncies a algo. Pero me gustaría sugerirte que consideres un poco más profundamente la razón por la cual lo vas a hacer.

Muchos de nosotros hemos tomado nociones de la infancia de nuestra práctica religiosa en la edad adulta. Al igual que nuestra ropa, estos entendimientos necesitan crecer con nosotros o nos encontraremos con nada que realmente sirva para nuestras necesidades adultas. Muy a menudo hemos visto nuestros sacrificios de Cuaresma como

algo que podríamos hacer para demostrar nuestra fuerza de voluntad o para demostrar nuestra devoción a Dios. Quizás incluso lo entendemos como una forma de ganar puntos en nuestra cuenta de ahorros celestial. Renunciamos a cosas que nos gustaban y que no eran necesariamente muy buenas para nosotros, como los caramelos o las gaseosas como la coca cola. Ese fue un buen plan, pero con el tiempo las razones de nuestro sacrificio pueden haberse transformado en algo más para nuestro bienestar personal que una acción dirigida al servicio de Dios.

Permitanme sugerir una manera más profunda de ver sus sacrificios de Cuaresma. En lugar de hacerlos como una forma de ganar el favor de Dios, ¿por qué no hacerlo como una manera de reflejar en tu vida la propia entrega de Jesús? Al "renunciar" entraremos en unión con Aquel que "aunque era rico, por su causa se hizo pobre" (II Cor. 8, 9), quien renunció a todo para elevarnos a la salvación. En otras palabras, no renuncias a las cosas para salvarte (eso es imposible). Renuncia a las cosas para

que puedas participar más plenamente en la Salvación que Jesús ganó por su Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección.

¿Quieres consejos sobre qué tipo de sacrificios serían los más fructíferos? Haz sacrificios que te ayuden a identificarte con los pobres. Piensa en las cosas que tienes y de las que carece una persona pobre; Cosas que podrías considerar necesarias para tu felicidad, pero que en realidad son exceso de equipaje. Podría sugerir una larga lista, pero esa sería la mía. Necesitas hacer la tuya. Cuando hagas esos sacrificios, piensa en aquellos que los hacen diariamente, no por elección, sino por necesidad y ora por ellos. Tu oración puede motivarte a servirles y luego tu

"renunciación" te hará aún más como tu Señor y Maestro.

Por nuestros sacrificios de Cuaresma nos unimos a Cristo, ya que durante esta temporada santa recordamos y revivimos lo que Él ha sacrificado por nosotros. Más que eso, Jesús nos permite de alguna manera cooperar con El, a través de nuestra propia libre aceptación de sufrimientos, ya sea libremente elegidas o aquellas que simplemente vienen con cada vida. Como San Pablo proclama tan audazmente, "...en mi propia carne, estoy llenando lo que falta en las aflicciones de Cristo, en nombre de su cuerpo, que es la iglesia". (Col. 1,24) ¿Qué es lo que posiblemente podría faltar en el sacrificio de Jesús? Solo una cosa: ¡nuestra participación en ella! Nosotros debemos de reconocer y acep-

tar con confianza los sufrimientos y dificultades a los que nos enfrentamos y al ofrecer a otros voluntariamente y de la manera más humilde y pequeña, podremos unirnos a Él.

Imagínate cuán fructífera podría ser tu Cuaresma y la mía, si nuestros sacrificios ya no fueran nuestros débiles esfuerzos, sino que se transformaran en acciones que nos unen con la obra mediante la cual Jesús está trabajando para salvar al mundo. Nos encontraríamos no solo unidos a Él, sino a todas las personas santas de Dios que son su Cuerpo. Si nos unimos con el Cristo que sufre, abandonado con alegría algo que no necesitamos esta Cuaresma, podemos confiar en que la alegría que viene con la Pascua será muy cercana.

Bp. Mark

# Happy Birthday

Fr. German Alzate-Agudelo	3/4
Fr. Juan Victor Gamino Trejo, MNM	3/20
Fr. Francisco Herrera (Ret.)	3/20
Fr. Apolinario Samboni	3/25
Fr. Wilson Cuevas	3/30
Fr. Mount Joseph Selvan Durai Ra, SJ	3/30

# Ordination Anniversaries

Fr. Peter Koo IL-MO (Extern)	3/6/79
Fr. Robert S. Kobe	3/9/79
Fr. Emmanuel Alcazar	3/17/89
Fr. Roberto Alvarado	3/17/89
Fr. Benjamin Mones	3/22/58

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# Tex-Mex Bishops and International Faith Leaders Converge in El Paso to Stand in Solidarity with Migrants

February 25 -27, El Paso played host to a meeting of the Tex-Mex Bishops Conference, which includes bishops from both sides of the US-Mexico border, and a dynamic group of social justice leaders, immigration advocates and interfaith allies from the United States, Mexico and even the Vatican. The meeting was held in partnership with the HOPE Border Institute in order to strategize new ways to strengthen the collective impact of the faith community on issues of migration.

As part of the meeting, a binational, interfaith gathering and witness in defense of migrants took place on Tuesday, February 26 on both sides of the Anapra Fence. The moving ceremony borrowed from various faith traditions and featured testimonies from migrants, music and prayer.



"The coming together of so many religious leaders from different traditions to stand with border communities and migrants in this urgent moment shows that the faith communi-

ty is on the front lines of building a just society," said Dylan Corbett, executive director of the HOPE Border Institute. "We won't stay silent in the face of efforts to redefine our

border as a place of exclusion and hate. We will stand up for solidarity, for human rights, for compassion and justice."

The meeting culminated in a joint statement underscoring

the resolve of the bishops and advocates to defend the right to migrate and to a dignified life. The bishops and other participants committed to collaborating on new ways to work together for justice, build thriving border communities and defend rights of migrants.

The seed for the summit was planted in January 2019 in light of significant challenges for border communities, asylum seekers and other migrants. The gravity of the current situation on the border, including the recent deaths of migrant children in the borderlands and threats from political leaders to build a border wall, made the gathering timely.

Stay connected and up to date on these efforts by signing up for the HOPE Border Institute's newsletter at [www.hopeborder.org](http://www.hopeborder.org).

## Obispos de Tex-Mex y líderes de fe internacional convirieron en El Paso para estar en solidaridad con migrantes

El Paso acogió una reunión de la Conferencia de Obispos de Tex-Mex del 25 al 27 de Febrero, que incluyó obispos de ambos lados de la frontera de México y Estados Unidos, y un grupo dinámico de líderes de justicia social, defensores de la inmigración y aliados interreligiosos de los Estados Unidos, México y un representante del Vaticano. La reunión se realizó en colaboración con el HOPE Border Institute con el fin de crear nuevas estrategias para fortalecer el impacto colectivo

de la comunidad de fe en los temas de migración.

Como parte de la reunión, una reunión binacional e interreligiosa y un testimonio en defensa de los migrantes se llevó a cabo el martes 26 de febrero en ambos lados de la Cerca de Anapra. La conmovedora ceremonia fue tomada de varias tradiciones religiosas y contó con testimonios de migrantes, música y oración.

"La reunión de tantos líderes religiosos de diferentes tradiciones para unirse a las

comunidades fronterizas y los migrantes en este momento urgente muestra que la comunidad de fe está en la vanguardia de la construcción de una sociedad justa", dijo Dylan Corbett, director ejecutivo de HOPE Border Institute. "No vamos a permanecer en silencio frente de los esfuerzos para redefinir nuestra frontera como un lugar de exclusión y odio. Defendemos la solidaridad, los derechos humanos, la compasión y la justicia".

La reunión culminó en una

declaración conjunta que subrayó la resolución de los obispos y defensores de el derecho a migrar y a una vida digna. Los obispos y otros participantes se comprometieron a colaborar en nuevas formas de trabajar juntos por la justicia, construir comunidades fronterizas prósperas y defender los derechos de los migrantes.

La semilla para la cumbre se sembró en Enero de 2019 a la luz de los desafíos significativos para las comunidades fronterizas, los solicitantes de asilo

y otros migrantes. La gravedad de la situación actual en la frontera, incluidas las muertes recientes de niños migrantes en las zonas fronterizas y las amenazas de los líderes políticos para construir un muro fronterizo, hicieron la reunión muy oportuna.

Manténgase conectado y actualizado sobre estos esfuerzos inscribiéndose en el boletín del Instituto Fronterizo HOPE en [www.hopeborder.org](http://www.hopeborder.org).

 The advertisement features a background photo of a person in clerical attire, possibly a priest, with their hand raised in a gesture of blessing or greeting. To the left, the words "THE BRIDGE" are written in a stylized, serif font, with a yellow cross symbol integrated into the letter "T". To the right, there is a large amount of text in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text reads:
 

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Wednesdays at 10 am  
Download the MyParish app or  
visit [www.elpasodiocese.org](http://www.elpasodiocese.org) to stream  
The Bridge, Catholic radio for the borderland!**



# Bishop Mark J. Seitz Concelebrates the Anniversary of the Pope's Visit in Juarez

The Diocese of Juarez celebrated the three year anniversary of the visit of Pope Francis to Ciudad Juarez with a mass at "El Punto." The Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Guadalupe Torres, Bishop of Juarez and Bishop Mark J. Seitz, Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso, along with various members of the Juarez presbyterate and thousand's of Juarez's faithful.

The event also saw the ribbon cutting of the "Cruz del Migrante" which commemorates the solidarity and prayer that our Pope shared with the community of Juarez for the migrants to the borderland of Juarez and El Paso. Immediately following the ribbon cutting, the two bishops celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the anniversary of the Pope's visit in 2016.



**Bishop Mark J. Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso, and Bishop Guadalupe Torres of the Diocese of Juarez prepare for Mass at "El Punto".**

"The Pope invited us to be a church of mercy, of love and compassion for all," Bishop Torres said during his homily. "With all the poorest, sick, migrants, those who have suffered violence, everyone! This was the message of the Pope, and also the message of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Bishop Mark Seitz joined Bishop Torres in solidarity during the celebration of mass to commemorate the Pope's message of love between the borderland.

"We do need borders in the world, but they should not divide us, they must be places where we can share our mutual love," Bishop Seitz said. "On that day three years ago, that was the message our Pope shared with us."

## El Obispo Mark J. Seitz Concelebra el Aniversario de la Visita del Papa a Juárez

La Diócesis de Juárez celebró el tercer aniversario de la visita del Papa Francisco a Ciudad Juárez con una misa en "El Punto". La misa fue celebrada conjuntamente por el Obispo Guadalupe Torres, Obispo de Juárez y el Obispo Mark J. Seitz, Obispo de la Diócesis de El Paso, junto con varios miembros del presbiterado de Juárez y miles de fieles de Juárez.

El evento también vio el corte de cinta de la "Cruz del Migrante" que conmemora la solidaridad y la oración que nuestro Papa compartió con la comunidad de Juárez para los migrantes a la frontera de Juárez y El Paso. Inmediatamente después del corte de cinta, los dos obispos celebraron una gran misa de agradecimiento por el aniversario de la visita del Papa en 2016.



**El obispo Mark J. Seitz visita a miembros de la comunidad de Juárez antes de la misa de aniversario para celebrar la visita del Papa Francisco a Juárez en 2016.**

"El Papa nos invitó a ser una iglesia de misericordia, de amor y compasión por todos", dijo el Sr. Obispo Torres durante su homilía. "¡Con todos los migrantes más pobres, enfermos, los que han sufrido violencia, todos! Este fue el mensaje del Papa, y también el mensaje de nuestro Señor Jesucristo."

El Obispo Mark Seitz se unió al Obispo Torres en solidaridad durante la celebración de la misa para conmemorar el mensaje de amor del Papa entre la frontera.

"Necesitamos fronteras en el mundo, pero no deberían dividirnos, deben ser lugares donde podamos compartir nuestro amor mutuo", dijo el Obispo Seitz. "Ese día, hace tres años, ese fue el mensaje que nuestro Papa compartió con nosotros."



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# Holy Spirit Catholic Church Celebrates Groundbreaking

Bishop Mark J. Seitz, D.D., Fr. Jose Morales and the community of Holy Spirit processed in prayer from the current sanctuary of Holy Spirit Catholic Church to the site of the new sanctuary as part of the ground breaking ceremony for the new sanctuary in early February.

"This is such an exciting and historic day for this community of Holy Spirit," Fr. José Morales said. "Like all families do, we have outgrown our current home and we are so excited to begin this journey to our new sanctuary," he added.

Around 1,500 community members processed in prayer for a little over 2 miles from the old sanctuary to the new site.



**Bishop Mark J. Seitz and Father José Morales celebrate Mass at the new grounds for the new Holy Spirit sanctuary.**

The church choir, members of various parish ministries, and

Matachines from the community alternated between song and prayer throughout the entire procession. At the end of the procession, Bishop Seitz and Fr. Morales celebrated mass at the site of the construction to initiate the groundbreaking of the new grounds.

"This is one of the brightest moments we have had in this parish in as long as I can remember," Parishioner, George

Essenberg said. "We are so excited to have a new home, where we can celebrate and worship the lord in," he added.

"The original plans called for us to build on the current site of Holy Spirit, but the needs were so great that we opted to move so that we can accommodate for a larger site for the sanctuary," Fr. José Morales added. "The people are very excited, and we are looking forward to next year when we will finally celebrate again in our new home," Fr. José Morales said.

The new sanctuary site, located on Horizon Blvd. across from Horizon High school, is slated to be completed in early 2020.

## Iglesia católica del Espíritu Santo celebra innovadores

El Obispo Mark J. Seitz, D.D., P. José Morales y la comunidad del Espíritu Santo procesaron en oración desde el santuario actual de la Iglesia Católica del Espíritu Santo hasta el sitio del nuevo santuario como parte de la ceremonia de inauguración del nuevo santuario a principios de febrero.

"Este es un día tan emocionante e histórico para esta comunidad del Espíritu Santo", el Padre. José Morales dijo. "Como hacen muchas familias, hemos superado nuestra casa actual y estamos muy emocionados de comenzar este viaje hacia nuestro nuevo santuario," agregó.

Alrededor de 1,500 miembros de la comunidad procesaron en oración por un poco más de 2 millas desde el antiguo santuario hasta el nuevo sitio. El coro de



**Miembros de la comunidad de la iglesia católica del Espíritu Santo al final de la procesión al nuevo sitio del santuario el 2 de febrero.**

la iglesia, miembros de varios ministerios parroquiales y Matachines de la comunidad alter-

aron entre canto y oración durante toda la procesión. Al final de la procesión, el Obispo Seitz

y el Padre Morales celebrar una misa en el sitio de la construcción para iniciar el inicio de los nuevos terrenos.

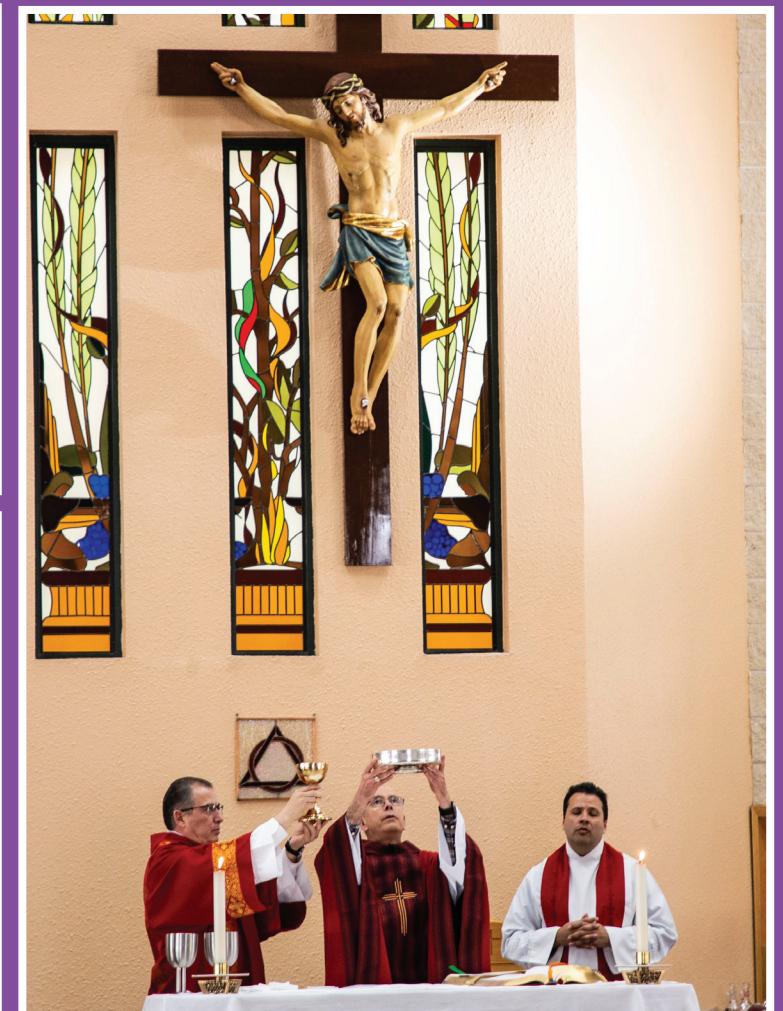
"Este es uno de los momentos más brillantes que hemos tenido en esta parroquia desde que tengo memoria", dijo miembro de la parroquia, George Essenberg. "Estamos

muy emocionados de tener un nuevo hogar, donde podemos celebrar y adorar al señor," agregó.

"Los planes originales nos pidieron que construyéramos en el sitio actual del Espíritu Santo, pero las necesidades eran tan grandes que optamos por movernos para poder acomodar un sitio más grande para el santuario", el Padre José Morales agregó. "La gente está muy emocionada y esperamos con ansias el próximo año, cuando finalmente celebraremos nuevamente en nuestro nuevo hogar", Padre José Morales dijo.

El nuevo sitio del santuario, ubicado en Horizon Blvd. enseguida de Horizon High School, está programado para completarse a principios de el 2020.

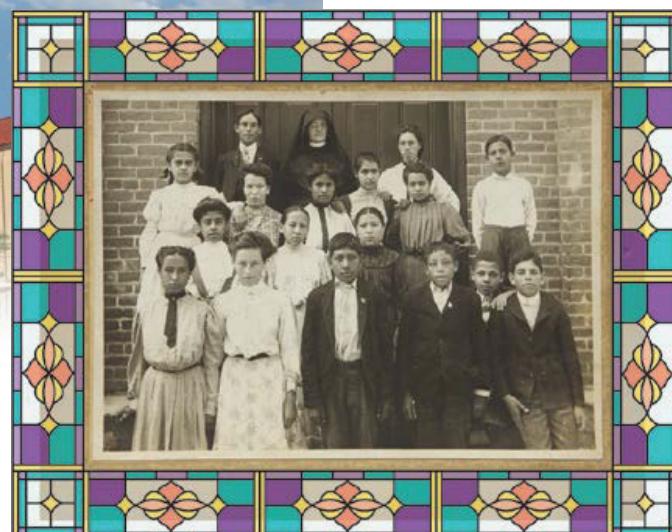
## Bishop Seitz Celebrates the Annual Altar Servers Mass



**Bishop Mark J. Setiz celebrated a Mass for Altar Servers in the Diocese of El Paso at The Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church on February 22. The Mass was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Vocations to help promote and pray for vocations in the diocese and amongst the Altar Servers of the diocese.**



Sister Helen Santamaria



Sacred Heart School – Sr Mary Basil 1907



Sister Mary Helen Denvir with Father Rahm (2nd from right) enjoy a meal with the Boys Club. Photo credit: Jose Andow

# SISTERS of Loretto

## The remarkable story of the Sisters of Loretto...

A religious order founded in Kentucky in 1812 by Mary Rhodes, Christine Stuart, and Nancy Havern and Father Charles Nerinckx, with a focus from its beginning on teaching. The sisters moved west in 1852, four years after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ceded the Southwest to the United States.

Sacred Heart Parish: circa 1963



The first Lorette school in Texas, St. Joseph's Academy in San Elizario, was opened in 1879. This academy was a boarding and day school for girls from the Rio Grande valley, and from nearby Mexico. In September 1892 the Sisters of

Loretto relocated St. Joseph Academy in El Paso, in the building formerly occupied by a school operated by the Sisters of Mercy. In October of the same year **Sacred Heart School**, the first Lorette-taught parochial school in Texas, began operations on South Oregon Street in El Paso. Subsequent parochial schools were opened and operated in El Paso by the sisters: **St. Mary's at Immaculate Conception** (1903–66), **St. Ignatius** (1905–57), **Guardian Angel** (1912–73), **Holy Family** (1922–25), **St. Joseph** (1923–77), **St. Patrick** (1923–79), and **Assumption** (1960–64).

In 1921, Mother Praxades bought 19½ acres of desert land in Austin Terrace where the current building was completed in 1923 on a seven acre campus. Besides the schools, the Sisters of Loretto administered Nazareth Hall in El Paso, a nursing home built in 1962 for the retired and infirm Sisters of Loretto.

For more information, call 915 999-1781 • [www.sacredheartelpaso.org](http://www.sacredheartelpaso.org) • 602 S. Oregon • El Paso, Texas 79901 



## EVENT SCHEDULE:

Thursday, April 25, 2019

### Dinner: Epic Railyard Event Center

2201 E. Mills Ave • El Paso, TX 79901

Cocktails at 5:30 pm and Dinner at 7:00 pm

• Tickets: \$100... Tables: \$1000

Saturday, April 27, 2019

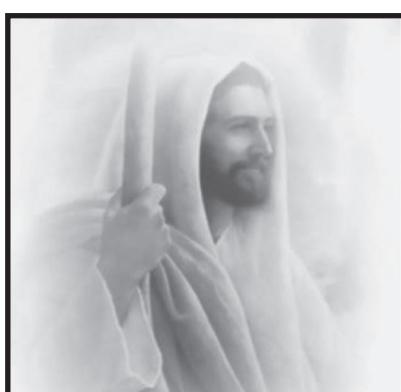
### Parade followed by Celebration

#### at Sacred Heart Church

9:00 am starting at St. Ignatius Church: 408 Park St

Sunday, April 28, 2019

### Mariachi Mass: 12:00 pm at Sacred Heart Church



## The Shepherd's Corner

### Gifts & Books

Hours of Operation:

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

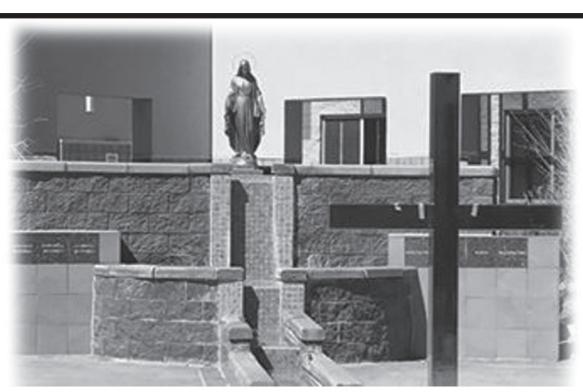
Wednesday - Friday 9 am -12 pm

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



# Collection for Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Collection

During Lent, our Catholic community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that invites us to encounter the needs of the world with the hope of the Resurrection.

As we prepare for this holy season, it is especially important to come together as a family and reflect on the crosses of hunger, poverty and war

## Colección para la Colección de Cuencos de Arroz de Catholic Relief Services

Habrá una Ofrenda Especial Anual el sábado, 30 de marzo y el domingo, 31 de marzo del 2019 para Servicios Católicos de Emergencia.

Este llamado anual, establecido hace más de 60 años apoya a las agencias de la Iglesia Católica que edifica la solidaridad internacional y los esfuerzos humanitarios. El apoyo que le des a esta colecta ayuda a las víctimas de persecuciones y de desastres naturales, provee servicios legales a inmigrantes pobres y aboga por los indefensos. Gracias a tu generosidad, las siguientes agencias católicas ayudarán a Jesús cuyo rostro se refleja en el refugiado vulnerable, en la familia inmigrante y en el pobre y marginado.

- Servicios Católicos de Ayuda es la agencia oficial humanitaria de la comunidad católica estadounidense en el ámbito internacional, ha salvado vidas y ha promovido la dignidad en todo el mundo, durante más de 60 años. Sus programas mitigan el sufrimiento, fomentan el desarrollo de comunidades, y ayudan a edificar sociedades más justas y pacíficas en 98 países.

- Servicios de Migración y Refugiados reasienta en sus hogares anualmente aproximadamente una tercera parte de todos los refugiados admitidos en los Estados Unidos y promueve políticas públicas justas para los recién llegados e inmigrantes, y responde a sus necesidades espirituales.

- El Fondo de Ayuda del Santo Padre ayuda a las víctimas de desastres naturales y otras emergencias alrededor del mundo.

- El Departamento de Justicia, Paz, y Desarrollo Humano (anteriormente El Departamento de Desarrollo Social y Paz Mundial) está a cargo, comparte y aplica la enseñanza social católica sobre asuntos de justicia y paz internacional. El Departamento promueve políticas públicas que protegen a los pobres y vulnerables, y que fomentan la paz y la justicia en todo el mundo.

- El Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia está a cargo, como parte de su misión, de la evangelización y el cuidado pastoral de inmigrantes, y refugiados.

En el fin de semana del 30 y 31 de marzo, sean tan generosos como les sea posible. Su apoyo puede hacer una gran diferencia en el mundo. Gracias por su apoyo.

that that are carried by our brothers and sisters forced to flee their homes. In so doing, we pledge to stand alongside these members of our human family, supporting them as the Gospel calls us to do.

Please consider these

suggestions in your family's Lenten plan:

- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar daily to guide your prayer, fasting and, almsgiving.
- Read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey—and guide your

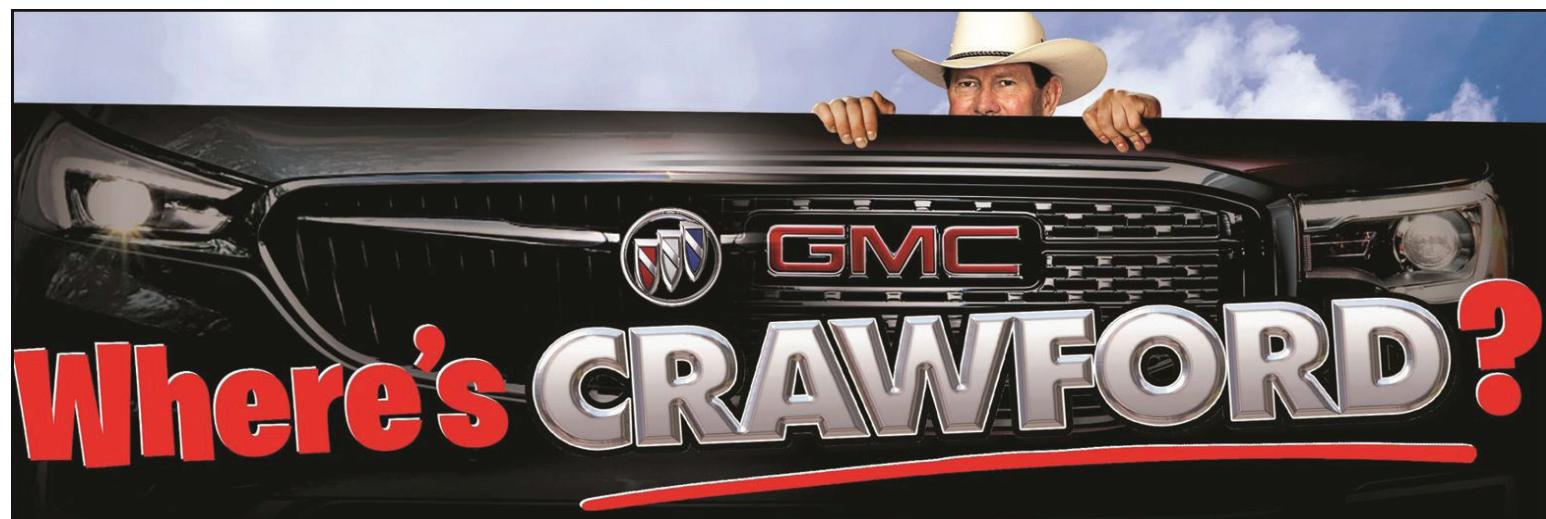
Lenten almsgiving.

- Consider how our meatless Fridays are in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.
- Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to watch videos of the people and communities you support through your

Lenten gifts to CRS Rice Bowl.

Rice Bowls will be distributed from March 10 thru April 21 and collected at the end of Lent.

Thank you for participating in CRS Rice Bowl with your family.



# Where's CRAWFORD?

## BUICK ENCORE

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**Descuento Crawford \$2,263**  
**Efectivo al Cliente \$4,250**

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\*Más título, placas e impuestos. Stock #B190293


## 2019 GMC TERRAIN

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**Descuento Crawford .....\$2,290 Apoyo GMF.....\$649**

**TOTAL CON TODOS LOS INCENTIVOS \$25,964.30\***

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**20%** **DEL MSRP \$6,490**

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<b>2017 VERSA SEDAN</b> 4DR SDN SV CVT  <b>\$12,995.00</b> G5513A	<b>2015 ALTIMA</b> 4DR SDN I4 2.5 SV  <b>\$14,995.00</b> 190195A	<b>2016 CIVIC SEDAN</b> 4DR CVT LX  <b>\$15,995.00</b> 190127B
<b>2015 TERRAIN</b> 4DR FWD  <b>\$15,995.00</b> 190127B		

**CRAWFORD BUICK GMC, SU CONSEJONARIA DE BUICK NÚMERO UNO**

**VÉANOS HOY MISMO!**  
**EN CRAWFORD BUICK GMC, MONTANA Y AIRWAY, CERCA DEL AEROPUERTO!**

**LET'S GO!**



# Collection for Catholic Relief Services

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, March 30 and Sunday March 31, 2019 for Catholic Relief Services.

This annual appeal, established more than 60 years ago, supports Catholic Church agencies that build international solidarity and relief efforts. Your support of this collection gives aid to victims of persecution and natural disasters, provides legal services to poor immigrants, and advocates for the powerless. Through your generosity, the following Catholic agencies will help Jesus as he bears the disguise of the vulnerable refugee, the immigrant family, and the poor and marginalized.

- Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States, has been saving lives and promoting human dignity around the world for over 60 years. Its programs alleviate suffering, foster community development, and help build more just and peaceful societies in 98

counties.

- Migration and Refugee Services, of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, resettles nearly one third of all refugees admitted to the United States.
- The Holy Father's Relief Fund assists victims of natural disasters and other emergencies worldwide.
- Justice, Peace and Human Development (formerly Department of Social Development and World Peace), of the United States Catholic Conference shares and applies Catholic social teaching on major domestic and international issues, and promotes public policies that protect the poor and vulnerable and that advance peace and justice throughout the world.
- The Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church (SCDC), of the United States Catholic Conference, has as part of its mission the evangelization and pastoral care of immigrants, and refugees.

## Colecta para Servicios Católicos de Emergencia

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En el fin de semana del 30 y 31 de marzo, sean tan generosos como les sea posible. Su apoyo puede hacer una gran diferencia en el mundo. Gracias por su apoyo.

## There will be a Special Offering on Ash Wednesday, for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe

### RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE

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

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

On Ash Wednesday, please take the opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. Thank you.

## La Ofrenda Especial para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental el Miércoles de Ceniza

### RESTAURAR LA IGLESIA EDIFICANDO EL FUTURO

Habrá una Ofrenda Especial Anual el miércoles de ceniza, 6 de marzo del 2019 para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental.

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

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

El miércoles de ceniza, pida a sus feligreses que por favor sean tan generosos como les sea posible y deles la oportunidad de contribuir a esta causa digna. Gracias. El miércoles de ceniza, por favor dé se la oportunidad de contribuir a esta digna causa. Gracias por su apoyo.

## Our Lady of Mount Carmel

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery is the only cemetery in El Paso established specifically to serve the Catholic community. In your greatest need, Our Lady of Mount Carmel is an extension of the parish family that provides services and support to help you manage the difficult decisions and many practical details that come with end-of-life arrangements.**

### Cementerio de Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo

**El cementerio de Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo es el único cementerio en El Paso establecido específicamente para servir a la comunidad Católica. Cuando usted más lo necesite, el Cementerio de Monte Carmelo es una extensión de la familia parroquial que proporciona servicios y apoyo para ayudarle a tomar las decisiones difíciles y detalles de los arreglos prácticos que vienen al final de la vida.**



### Facilities and Services

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel offers a full range of options:**

- \* Intimate chapel for on-site services
- \* Traditional burials, in-ground or in a mausoleum
- \* Internment of cremated remains in the columbarium or the chapel
- \* Peaceful, well-kept grounds maintained with environmentally-responsible reclaimed water

**Aside from the immediate need services available at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, staff members can provide assistance with arrangements for future needs**

401 S. Zaragoza Rd \* Ph. 860-0606

One in a series of informational presentations

# El Paso's Got Sisters!

**By Sister Janet Gildea, SC,  
Liaison for Women Religious**

March 8-14, 2019 is National Catholic Sisters Week and it's a good time to celebrate the many ways that women religious continue to minister in the Diocese of El Paso and beyond. Articles in the Rio Grande Catholic during the past year have sought out the Sisters in their diverse places of ministry: schools, shelters, clinics and seminaries. Most, if not all, of them were shy about sharing their vocation stories and hesitated to talk about their experiences of consecrated life. Maybe that's why people think that we don't have Sisters anymore. But we do! In our diocese, we have approximately eighty active and twenty contemplative women religious. There are twenty three different congregations represented. The numbers are always changing because the Spirit calls and Sisters move!

Women are still responding to God's call to discern a vocation to religious life. The response is not as visible as it is for men because the process of discernment and formation does not usually occur at the diocesan level. There is not a diocesan "seminary" for women considering consecrated life. Instead, after exploring the call with ordinarily several different different congregations through vocation events, retreats, live-in

experiences or mission trips, the woman enters into a process that is offered closer to the congregational center or Motherhouse.



For those exploring a call to contemplative life this process occurs in the monastery and is enclosed so there is limited contact with the outside world, an experience that is important for discernment of that very distinct calling. Because of this it is not readily apparent that local women are choosing to seriously consider life as a Sister, but there are women in formation at both monasteries of the Adoratrices del Santísimo Sacramento as well as postulants and novices with the Dominican Sisters of Christian Doctrine who have their initial formation programs located in El Paso and Chaparral. Several other local women have entered congregations such as the Servants of the Lord and the Virgen Matará and are in for-

mation studies elsewhere. The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati have located their pre-novitiate program at their residence near La Union, New Mexico. Four women who completed the formation program with the Sisters

religious will discern ministries according to the directions and policies of their individual congregations and those directions may not lead them back to our diocese. But the impact of faith and service experienced in mission at the border has a lifelong effect on the Sisters!

Anyone who has served at the hospitality centers with the refugees is aware of the numbers of women religious who have come from across the country and around the world in response to the call for volunteers. Among them have been Sisters-in-training

ing, those who are in the formation process with their congregations, as well as those who are studying everything from



vicio experimentado en la misión en la frontera tiene un efecto de por vida en las Hermanas!

Cualquier persona que haya servido en los centros de hospi-

quienes estudian de todo, desde la ley de inmigración hasta el liderazgo institucional y los grados teológicos avanzados. Las Hijas de la Caridad enviaron a sus "hermanas de seminario" (en otras congregaciones llamadas "novicias"), abandonaron sus estudios para servir en el Centro Pastoral,

clasificar

talidad con los refugiados está al tanto de la cantidad de religiosas que han venido de todo el país y del mundo en respuesta a la solicitud de voluntarios. Entre ellos se encuentran las hermanas en entrenamiento, quienes están en el proceso de formación con sus congregaciones, así como

y doblar la ropa. ¡San Vicente de Paul definitivamente lo aprobaría! ¡Un efecto imprevisto de tantas religiosas que vienen a la diócesis como voluntarias puede ser una oleada de hermanas que regresan por un compromiso ministerial más permanente! Tal vez regresen a sus congrega-

iones con la Buena Nueva de El Paso como un sitio vibrante donde pueden responder al desafío del Papa Francisco de: "¡Adelante!" A las periferias geográficas y existenciales de la experiencia humana.

Make an effort to thank the Sisters for their service during National Catholic Sisters Week! Pray for the women who will be attending a special national discernment retreat for Latinas in San Antonio March 7-10. The retreat is called "Profundo Encuentro" and a few women from our diocese are attending. Encourage women in whom you see the potential for living religious life to "ask a Sister" what it's like and how they discovered their calling. Learn more about Catholic Sisters on the website A Sister to All: <http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org/sister-to-all.php>

Yes, El Paso's got Sisters but we could use reinforcements!

# ¡El Paso Tiene Hermanas!

**Por Sister Janet Gildea, SC,  
Liaison para Mujeres Religiosas**

La Semana Nacional de las Hermanas Católicas es del 8 al 14 de marzo del 2019 y siempre es un buen momento para celebrar las muchas maneras en que las religiosas siguen ministeriando en la Diócesis de El Paso y más allá. El Periódico Católico Río Grande ha procurado en sus artículos del año pasado a las Hermanas en sus diversos lugares de ministerio: escuelas, refugios, clínicas y seminarios. La mayoría, si es que no todas, se mostraron tímidas al compartir sus historias de vocaciones y dudaron en hablar sobre sus experiencias de vida consagrada. Quizás por eso la gente piensa que ya no tenemos hermanas. ¡Pero si tenemos! En nuestra diócesis tenemos aproximadamente ochenta religiosas y veinte religiosas contemplativas. Hay veintitrés congregaciones diferentes representadas. ¡Los números siempre están cambiando, porque el Espíritu llama y las Hermanas se mueven!

Las mujeres siguen respondiendo al llamado de Dios para discernir una vocación a la vida religiosa. La respuesta no es tan visible como lo es para los hombres, porque el proceso de discernimiento y formación no suele ocurrir a nivel diocesano. No hay un "seminario" diocesano para mujeres que consideran la vida consagrada. En cambio, después de explorar la llamada con varias congregaciones diferentes a través de eventos vocacionales, retiros, experiencias en vivo o viajes misioneros, la



¡Haga un esfuerzo para agradecer a las Hermanas por su servicio durante la Semana Nacional de las Hermanas Católicas! Ore por las mujeres que asistirán a un retiro especial de discernimiento nacional para latinas en San Antonio, del 7 al 10 de marzo. El retiro se llama "Profundo Encuentro" y asisten algunas mujeres de nuestra diócesis. Aliente a las mujeres en las que vea el potencial de vivir una vida religiosa para que "pregunten a una hermana" cómo es y cómo descubrieron su vocación. Obtenga más información sobre las hermanas católicas en el sitio web "Una hermana para todas": <http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org/sister-to-all.php>

Sí, El Paso tiene hermanas, ¡pero podríamos usar refuerzos!



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# "Exceptions" and the Undermining of the Moral Law

Whenever we make small exceptions to universal moral rules, we shouldn't be surprised that the rules themselves can be quickly undermined. Establishing an "exception" in one case makes people think they're due an exemption for their case as well. Certain norms of moral behavior, however, do not admit of any exceptions, and we risk undermining morality altogether if we don't recognize them. Moral norms governing the protection of human life are one such example.

A recent and lengthy article in *The Guardian* took a look at the practice of euthanasia in the Netherlands. It led off with this provocative title: "Death on demand: has euthanasia gone too far? Countries around the world are making it easier to choose the time and manner of your death. But doctors in the world's euthanasia capital are starting to worry about the consequences." The article points out that,

"As the world's pioneer, the Netherlands has also discovered that although legalising euthanasia might resolve one ethical conundrum, it opens a can of others – most importantly, where the limits of the practice should be drawn. In the past few years a small but influential group of academics and jurists have raised the alarm over what is generally referred to, a little archly, as the

'slippery slope' – the idea that a measure introduced to provide relief to late-stage cancer patients has expanded to include people who might otherwise live for many years, from sufferers of diseases such as muscular dystrophy to sexagenarians with dementia and even mentally ill young people."

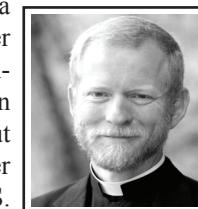
The logic behind these concerns is clear. If we are willing to make an exception to the rule that direct killing of an innocent human being is always wrong, then it only becomes a matter of "haggling over the price." If killing by euthanasia can be allowed for a deeply emotional reason, it can certainly be allowed for other reasons too, and soon for nearly any reason, making it difficult, if not impossible, to put the cat back into the proverbial "moral bag."

The almost instantaneous deployment of abortion-on-demand around the world several decades ago relied on very similar logic: first, grant a single exception, and in time virtually any instance begins to appear plausible and defensible. That exception, of course, was rape. By playing on the tragedy of sexual assault, abortion advocates managed to direct attention and blame towards the child, an innocent bystander, turning him or her, almost more than the rapist, into the culprit. After the

child had been successfully targeted in situations of rape, he or she became generally targetable in other situations as well.

When it comes to abortion, the state of Louisiana in past years required some of the most comprehensive reporting in the US, and their detailed records are a helpful resource for determining how frequent abortions for rape really are. Abortionists were required to fill out a form entitled "Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy" (Form #PHS 16-ab) for every abortion. The form stated at the top: "Failure to complete and file this form is a crime." Item 9d on the form was entitled "Reason for Pregnancy Termination." Statistics compiled from these forms over a 14-year period reveal the reasons for 115,243 abortions in Louisiana during that time.

These data confirm other calculations indicating that, on average, about 550 women per year in the U.S. become pregnant as a result of rape. Assuming they all ended in abortion, this means that an average of 0.04% (one twenty-fifth of one percent) of all abortions have been performed for rape — or only one out of every 2,500! Yet for every one of the more than 50 countries that now have abortion on demand around the world, the initial step taken by pro-abortion forces was intense lobbying for abortion in the so-called 'hard cases' -- especially rape and incest. Once abortion advocates secured the availability of abortion for the 'hard



**Making Sense out of Bioethics**  
**Fr. Tad Pacholczyk**

cases' they went on to argue for abortion in any situation.

Even if one granted, for the sake of argument, that rape justified a mother's decision to end her child's life, could that ever justify the other abortions that occur for non-rape related reasons? It is duplicitous to justify 2,499 deaths from the one assault, unjust and traumatic as it may have been. By granting the exception, the moral rule has been, in effect, eliminated, and the doors have been thrown open to the practice of abortion for any reason. Encouraging exceptions is the entry point into a broader repudiation of our moral duties towards each other, the first of which is the duty to respect the inviolability of each other's life.

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

## Reasons for Abortion in Louisiana between 1975 and 1988

<b>Mother's mental health</b>	<b>114,231</b>	<b>(99.12%)</b>
<b>Mother's physical health</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>(0.75%)</b>
<b>Fetal deformity</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>(0.09%)</b>
<b>Rape or incest</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>(0.04%)</b>

# Will We Accept Our Marching Orders?

March has always been one of my favorite months of the year. Not December with the wonderful celebration of Christmas. Not November with its family gatherings around tables to offer thanks for abundant blessings that God showers down upon us. Not even the trio of summer months when my children were home from school and we were able to spend time together on outings and vacations. No, it is March with its shrill winds that bring dust storms to our desert Southwest home, along with a smattering of raindrops that barely dampen the cars and outdoor furniture just enough to plaster the dust in mosaic patterns across their surfaces.

Of course, it isn't the dust or winds that brighten my heart this month. It is the memory of an amazing miracle in which I was allowed to participate. At this time, thirty-six years ago, my husband and I were joyfully anticipating the birth of our first child, the baby we had desired for seven long years of trying, crying and praying.

Finally, after so many disappointments, after so many prayers, the happy event was almost within our reach. The previous months had slipped by so quickly but also with so much delight over every remarkable change that had been happening to the precious life within me. During the month of December, I had felt so much closer

to our Blessed Mother as I connected with her excitement as well as her ordeal of traveling so late in her pregnancy. Any-one who, during the last stages of her pregnancy, has bumped and jostled along the local highway construction can, in a small way, appreciate Mary's journey to Bethlehem while riding on a

would be given to her. The Annunciation, which we celebrate on March 25 each year, not only altered Mary's plans for her future but also changed the course of history for the entire world.

God had promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior into the world Who would redeem us from their sin



donkey!

At last, March, the final month, had arrived and the birth of our precious miracle would change our lives forever in more ways than we could possibly expect. Once again, in a small way, I recognized the transformation

about to take place in our lives paralleled the complete upheaval in Mary's and Joseph's lives. While I eagerly awaited the birth of a child for whom I had yearned for several years, young Mary received a messenger who delivered news that she had never expected nor imagined

of disobeying His will. After so many centuries, so many sins of disobedience, the world would certainly welcome the Savior. At least, Mary unhesitatingly embraced the news and the tiny Savior who nestled unseen in her womb.

Shortly after we celebrated the Annunciation, the beginning of Mary's pregnancy, the time for my own pregnancy ended as my precious child made her appearance into the world. My husband and I were overjoyed. God's beautiful miracle had finally made her appearance into

our lives and our arms. At the same time, we marveled at the overwhelming realization that nothing would ever be the same.

Did Mary fully recognize the changes that were about to happen in her own life as well as in the world as a whole? Of

course not. What parent ever really understands how much the birth of a child will impact their lives? How can anyone comprehend the amount of joy that one tiny smile can bring to a parent's heart? How can one small bundle of fingers grip our emotions so tightly to make them soar beyond the clouds with happiness? How can minuscule forehead wrinkles and tiny cries cause our feelings to plummet to the depths when something hurts our child?

How can ten tiny toes, that we knew were fully formed at only ten weeks after conception and months before birth, dance their way into our very soul as we struggle to protect and guide her along the difficult paths in life?

Over two thousand years ago, on a day that we celebrate in March, and nine months before His birth, Jesus was made man, incarnate in the womb of a virgin. The miraculous conception of that tiny child changed the world. But isn't every child



**Sidewalk Jesus**  
**Janet M. Crowe**

a miracle? Doesn't every child change the world in some small way – not to the extent that our Lord did, certainly – but definitely in the way that our Lord has planned for that one child to make a difference in the world.

I know that the conception of our own little miracle and her birth nine months later, absolutely changed my world for the better, and we welcomed her with love. Every child is conceived with a plan by her Heavenly Father to make a difference in the world and to be welcomed with love. No matter the difficulties of her conception or the turmoil surrounding his birth, each and every child is loved by the Father and the Son. And when we call upon the courage and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we can ensure that each and every child is also welcomed by those of us here on earth. Those tiny miracles are reflections of God's love if we will just let them shine their love into the world.

March not only gives us the miracle of new life that is Jesus Christ hidden within the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary; it also presents us with our marching orders to protect and cherish each tiny life conceived within a mother's womb. Will we answer God's call to honor His plan for each child's life or will we also turn our backs on God and listen to the serpent who lures us away from God's will?

# El Aspecto Medicinal De La Confesion!

Desde la creación, Dios ha acariciado un proyecto: la felicidad de los hombres y mujeres. Y hay que atrevernos a decir que también desea la felicidad de los animales, de las plantas y de todo el medio ambiente que El creo. Nuestra tarea de cristianos es producir felicidades y rescatar felicidades secuestradas. Y para lograrlo Cristo nos dejó el supremo regalo del PERDON, que es la variante más hermosa del AMOR. No existe el verdadero amor sin perdón. Una cosa es cierta: el mundo cambiaria de manera sorprendente si todos los hombres y mujeres buscan el perdón de Dios.!

Uno de los preciosos regalos de Cristo Resucitado, fue el Sacramento de la Reconciliación como medicina contra el pecado y el mal. Jesus dijo a sus apóstoles: "Como el Padre me envió, así los envío Yo, a ustedes. Dicho esto, sopló sobre ellos y les dijo: reciban el Espíritu Santo, a quienes perdonen sus pecados, les quedan personados y a quienes no perdonen, quedarán sin perdonar" Jn. 20, 21-24. Solo Dios puede perdonar los pecados, Cristo que es Dios, delegó este poder a sus apóstoles y a la Iglesia. EL PERDON ES EL REMEDIO A LOS GRANDES PROBLEMAS DE LA HUMANIDAD!

Este testimonio ilustra de manera ejemplar el poder salvador de la confesión: El emi-

nente siquiatra John Rathbone Oliver, cuenta que un sábado en la tarde, oraba arrodillado en el fondo de una iglesia Católica. Observo a una muchacha de unos dieciséis años que estaba visiblemente nerviosa y atormentada. Se retorcía las manos y no podía estar quieto. En su cara se leía la angustia como en un libro abierto. Era evidente que una gran agitación interior estaba robándole la paz y el equilibrio. Era la estampa de la ansiedad.

"Poco después la muchacha se levantó y fue hacia el confesionario. Yo también me levante y me dirigí hacia el altar mayor y me arrodillé ante el Santísimo. Pasó el tiempo rápidamente y al poco tiempo alguien me tropezó al arrodillarse a mi lado en las gradas del altar. Era la misma joven. Pero jamás había visto cambio tan semejante en un ser humano. Toda la tensión había desaparecido; el rito de preocupación se había dulcificado; en sus facciones no había ni el menor rastro de tortura mental, solamente una perfecta calma, relajación y al parecer una gran felicidad, ya que sus labios se entreabrieron en una sonrisa. Si yo como sicoanalista, hubiera podido en tres horas, hacer por aquella muchacha lo que se había conseguido allí en diez o quince minutos, me hubiera considerado el más extra-ordinario de los médicos".

Jesucristo inventó el Sac-

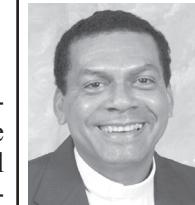
ramento de la Reconciliación, para sanar las mentes y corazones, y devolver la paz y la alegría después del pecado, a sus seguidores hasta el fin del mundo. Este ha sido un gran regalo que todavía no hemos sabido valorar y apreciar lo suficiente. El santo cura de Ars, procuraba con toda su alma, servir a los fieles a la recepción frecuente de los sacramentos, especialmente de la CONFESION y de la EUCHARISTIA, solía decir: "No todos los que se acercan son santos. Pero los santos serán siempre escogidos entre aquellos que los reciben con frecuencia". Padre Pio de Pieltrecina decía: "Un santo es un cristiano que se confiesa". La gracia de Dios que llega por medio de esos dos sacramentos no circula en vano en nuestra vida: algo muy especial hace en nosotros. Un hombre trata de burlarse de los que van a confesarse, diciendo: "Por cada hombre que se confiesa, se confiesan treinta mujeres". Una mujer que le oía, le contestó al momento: "Es verdad. Y quizás por eso mismo, en las cárceles, por cada mujer hay treinta hombres". Yo he sido capellán en la cárcel y un ejemplo concreto es que en la cárcel del Condado de El Paso, el edificio de la cárcel de 12 pisos, 11 están ocupados por hombres y solo 1 por las mujeres. Quizás tenga algo que ver la estadística entre confesionario y cárcel;

porque no suelen ser los que van a la cárcel quienes se confiesan con más frecuencia.

En mi experiencia pastoral, considero que la Misa Dominical (homilía) y la confesión son

"dos terapias" colectivas atreves de la cual Dios por medio de la iglesia, sana y desbarata muchos planes perversos y dañinos en las mentes y corazones de los que participan en estas celebraciones con fe y fervor. Algunos feligreses me han dado su testimonio de los beneficios que han experimentado al confesarse y al venir a misa y escuchar la homilía o sermón de sus sacerdotes. Cambia su actitud, su mentalidad y sus relaciones con la familia, amigos y demás gente.

Existen muchos cristianos que no se confiesan porque no les gusta. Y a muchos no les gusta porque no saben cómo hacerlo. Existen otros que se ponen nerviosos porque les da vergüenza encontrarse consigo mismos. Es frecuente oír: "Yo me confieso solo con Dios, o yo no le digo mis pecados a un sacerdote porque es un hombre como yo. O También, yo no tengo pecados: no robo, no soy infiel, no he matado a nadie..." Quienes piensan así, no es lógico su razonamiento, se quedan a medio camino. Si tus pecados



**Vida del Espíritu**  
Padre Wilson Cuevas

son cosas de Dios y tuya, también lo es tu comunión. Coge un trozo de pan, consáralo y comulga. Para que necesitas al sacerdote? Si para recibir el perdón de los pecados no necesitamos "intermediario" Por qué vamos a necesitarlo para recibir el Cuerpo de Cristo? Lo que ocurre es que recibir la comunión de manos del sacerdote, no cuesta. Contarle los pecados si cuesta: hay que hablar mal de uno mismo y no estamos acostumbrados. Y como cuesta, se inventan toda clase de teorías. Rehuir la confesión no le deja a Dios hacer lo que más le gusta hacer: Perdonar; cuando le brindamos esa oportunidad hay fiesta en el Cielo". Deberíamos tenerlo presente al confesarnos. Lo que hay que pretender y procurar es que nuestras caídas, cada vez, sean más distantes y menos intensas. Pero no deben jamás desanimarse. Dios cuenta con nuestras caídas y recaídas. También cuenta con nuestra lucha. Si podemos decir "lo mismo de siempre, pero menos", la cosa va bien. La confesión entraña propósito sincero de cambiar, de mejorar. Para eso instituyó Jesús la Confesión: para conceder su perdón y para darnos fuerza que nos ayude a cambiar de vida.

# The Medicinal Aspect Of Confession!

From creation, God has embraced one design: the happiness of men and women. And we dare say that He also wants the happiness of animals, of plants and the whole environment that He created. Our task as Christians is to produce happiness and to recover any missing happiness. And to achieve this, Christ left us the supreme gift of FORGIVENESS, which is the most beautiful variant of LOVE. There is no true love without forgiveness. One thing is certain: the world would change in a surprising way if all men and women would seek forgiveness from God!

One of the precious gifts of the Risen Christ was the Sacrament of Reconciliation as medicine against sin and evil. Jesus said to his apostles: "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." After saying this, he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive, are forgiven them; and whose sins you retain, they are retained" Jn. 20, 21-24. Only God can forgive sins, Christ who is God. He delegates this power to His apostles and to the Church. FORGIVENESS IS THE REMEDY FOR THE GREAT PROBLEMS OF HUMANITY!

This testimony exemplifies the healing power of confession: The eminent psychiatrist John Rathbone Oliver relates that one Saturday afternoon, he prayed kneeling in the back of a Catholic church. I watched a girl of about sixteen who was visibly nervous and tormented. She wrung her hands and could not stand still. In her face could be read the anguish as in an open book. It was evident that a great interior upheaval was robbing her of peace and emotional balance. It was the picture of anxiety.

"Shortly after the girl got up and went to the confessional, I went to the main altar and knelt before the Blessed Sacrament. Time passed quickly and soon after, someone stumbled upon kneeling beside me on the steps of the altar. It was the same young woman. But I had never seen such a change in a human being. All tension had disappeared; the semblance of worry had softened; in her features there was not the slightest trace of mental torture, only perfect calm, relaxation and apparently great happiness, as her lips parted in a smile.

If I, as a psychoanalyst, could have done for that girl in three hours what had been achieved there in ten or fifteen

minutes, I would have been considered the most extraordinary doctor."

Jesus Christ created the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to heal minds and hearts and return peace and joy after sin to His followers until the end of the world. This has been a great gift that we do not yet know how to value and appreciate enough. The Holy Priest of Ars tried with all his soul to encourage and lead the faithful to the frequent reception of the sacraments, especially CONFESSION and the EUCHARIST.

He used to say: "Not all those who approach are saints, but saints will always be chosen from among those who receive them frequently. Father Pius of Pieltrecina said: "A saint is a Christian who confesses." The grace of God that arrives through these two sacraments does not circulate in vain in our lives: something very special does. A man tries to make fun of those who are going to confession, saying: "For every man who confesses, thirty women confess." A woman who heard him, answered at once: "It's true, and maybe that's why, in prisons, for every thirty men, there is only one woman. "I have served as a jail chaplain, and a concrete

example is that in the El Paso County jail, the 12-story prison building, 11 floors are occupied by men and only 1 by women. Maybe it has something to do with statistics between the confessional and prison; because it is not usually those who confess often that go to jail.

In my pastoral experience, I consider that Sunday Mass (homily) and confession are "two collective therapies" by which God through the church, dismantles many perverse and harmful plans in the minds and hearts of those involved in these celebration with faith and fervor. Some parishioners have given me their testimony of the benefits they have experienced in confessing, coming to mass and listening to the homily or sermon of their priests. They change their attitude, their outlook, and thereby their relationship with family, friends, and other people.

There are many Christians who do not confess because they do not like it. Many do not like it because they do not know how to do it. There are others who get nervous because it's embarrassing. It is common to hear: "I confess only to God, and I do not tell my sins to a priest because he is a man like me. "OR", I don't have any sins: I do not steal, I am not unfaithful, I have not

killed anyone." For those who think this way, this reasoning is not logical. They are only half-way committed. Sins are things of God and yours, and so is your communion. Take a piece of bread, consecrate it and take communion. Why do you need the priest? If to receive the forgiveness of sins we do not need an "intermediary," why should we need one to receive the Body of Christ? What happens is that receiving communion from the priest does not cost us anything. Telling him our sins does: you have to speak badly about yourself and we are not used to it. And since it costs, all sorts of theories are invented. Avoiding confession does not let God do what He likes the most: Forgive. When we give him that opportunity there is a party in Heaven. "We should keep this in mind when we confess. What we have to admit and seek is that our falls, each time, may become more distant and less intense. But they should never be discouraged. God counts on our falls and relapses. He also counts on us to fight. If we can say "the same as always, but less," things are going well. Confession must include a sincere purpose to change, to improve, and that is why Jesus instituted Confession: to grant His forgiveness and to give us strength to help us change our lives.

# Living into the Eucharistic Mystery

**Rev. Marcus McFadin, D.Min**  
Acting Director Office of Worship

Saint Irenaeus of Lyon (+ c. 203) wrote: "our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist confirms our way of thinking."

We are taken into a world of mystery when we celebrate the Eucharist. This mystery is the Kingdom of God which was central to Jesus' message and mission. Jesus' life was an encounter with the mystery that is God and God's vision for creation (the Kingdom). For the many who encountered Christ, there followed an understanding of God and the Kingdom in healing, forgiveness, mercy, justice and restoration of life. In Christ, what we pray in the

Lord's Prayer became reality, on earth as it is in heaven.

To celebrate the Eucharist is also a participation in the life of Jesus. To articulate our participation in the life and ministry of Jesus, let us place ourselves with him at the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew. On the mount, Jesus is the new Moses, interpreting the Covenant for a new generation. He continues to teach and interpret today when we gather to hear the Word within the celebration of Eucharist.

In chapter 5 of Matthew, Jesus speaks of those who are blessed. Those who receive blessings (the poor in spirit) and those who are blessing to others (blessed are the merciful). Simply, blessed are we all when

we accompany one another and serve the needs of others. We are joined to Christ in the Spirit, and so as he spoke to others in need and transformed their reality, so he continues to transform the world into the Kingdom as he speaks and acts through us.

Within the context of the Sermon, Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Matt.6:9). The prayer is not about some far-off reality but the transformation of the world in which we live, on earth as it is in heaven. We must caution ourselves that we do not recite it so often that we forget the potency for what we are praying. We are praying for the transformation of ourselves and the world. We pray that heaven and earth be joined so the Kingdom

comes to completion within the reality of this world. The Kingdom is not a world of walls, racial supremacy, accumulated wealth, or resources held by the few and only available to the highest bidder. Joined to the Golden Rule (Matt 7:12), do to others as you would have them do to you, we recognize the fundamental rights of each human being and realize that we have a responsibility to defend the fundamental rights of others as well as our rights (CCC 1807).

This understanding moves us beyond political rhetoric to an understanding that every moment of life is sacred.

Lastly, we examine our lives in the context of the Great Judgment scene found in the later half of chapter 25. This serves as a daily examination of conscience. We quickly see that every moment of accompaniment in which we bless, and are

blessed, is sacramental because if bears the presence of Christ. After the words of institution and proclaiming the Mystery of Faith, the Eucharistic Prayer moves into the intercessions in which we pray for our unity as Church, but also how to live our lives in union with Christ and others. The clearest expression of this is stated in Eucharistic Prayer for Masses for Various Needs III:

Keep us attentive to the needs of all that, sharing their grief and pain, their joy and hope, we may faithfully bring them the good news of salvation and go forward with them along the way of your Kingdom.

As Timothy O'Malley wrote in *Bored Again Catholic*: "at every Eucharistic liturgy, we receive total love. We are to become this love, this unity, for the entire world."



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# Lent: A Time to Pray for Vocations

by Rev. Mariano H. López  
Director of Seminarists

Beginning Ash Wednesday, the parishes from across the diocese will provide special materials to promote prayer for vocations. The Lenten Campaign for Vocations is not only a time to collect offerings for Vocation Promotion Activities; it is primarily intended for prayer.

In the Nicene Crede, which we often recite on Sundays at mass, we say "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life." Pope John Paul II wrote an encyclical titled "Dominum Vivificantem" (1986), which means "Lord, Giver of Life," making reference to this part of the Creed. In the encyclical he mentions that the Holy Spirit was present in the life and ministry of Jesus allowing for his mission to take root (Dominum Vivificantem 15-21) and the same Spirit allows us to participate in his mission in the present age until the end of times. Without the Holy Spirit, it is not possible to participate in the mission (Dominum Vivificantem 67). In prayer we approach the origin of

our mission: the Holy Spirit. As we approach the Spirit, our life is regenerated. We are renewed spiritually and often physically.

Each person is called to the general vocation to holiness,



**Fr. Mariano Lopez visits El Paso seminarists on the occasion of the institution of acolytes at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio. Let us pray for the dedication and growth of our seminarists.**

to a particular vocation (priesthood, marriage, consecrated life, single life), and to a mission (a concrete commitment such as a ministry, a career and specific relationships). The Catholic un-

derstanding is that a vocation is a calling that comes from God. God is the one who calls each person to be holy, to his or her particular vocation, and to concrete missions at different mo-

ments in life. Very often, upon discovering any of the three tiers of vocations, there may be great excitement and euphoria. This is witnessed as people are on fire for God and want to live for

him with great zeal upon living a spiritual retreat or awakening. This is also the case when a young couple discovers the first signs of marriage, it is common for a new couple to suffer when they must be apart (even if it is for a short time). The commitments that we make in our day-to-day life are also uplifting at first.

Yet, as time passes, the truth is that God's calling is not an easy ride. It is actually in the form of his Son's cross. For this reason, the fire of faith ceases, life choices are interrupted and denied quickly, and day to day commitments may be abandoned. As the cross behind a vocation appears to become heavier, it is important to approach the Lord, the giver of life: the Spirit through which God has called each of us. We do so for ourselves, but we may also invoke this Spirit over the calling of another. The result is renewed life and strength.

Our seminarists are men with different challenges. They come from distinct backgrounds and have different family histories. This is the case for every person who is seeking to live a vocation, but for some reason it is mistakenly believed that those who are called to priesthood

have extra powers that exempt them from suffering. On the contrary, if they seek to authentically preside over the mystery of the Lord's saving death at the altar of the Eucharist, they will intimately be united to the pain and the darkness of the mystery (even though eventually the fruits are new life and resurrection). Therefore, as a Church, we must pray for these men, our seminarists. May they carry the cross they once felt called to with persistence and courage. May the Spirit renew their strength as the journey becomes long and tiring.

The Lenten calendars distributed to each parish, and also available at the Saint Charles Seminary Vocation Office, invite the diocesan church to dedicate a special moment of prayer each day for a different seminarist. We are to pray not only for new vocations, but also for those who are already seeking to respond to the Lord's calling. For these, let us pray.

If you would like to receive a Lenten Calendar for Vocations please contact your home parish or the Diocesan Vocation Office at (915) 872-8403

## Cuaresma: Un Tiempo Para Orar por Vocaciones

por Rev. Mariano H. López  
Director de Seminaristas

Comenzando este Miércoles de Ceniza, las parroquias de la diócesis proporcionaron materiales para promover la oración por vocaciones. La Campaña Cuaresmal por Vocations no es solamente para recaudar fondos para Actividades de Promoción Vocacional; la oración es el propósito primordial.

En el Credo Niceno, que recitamos los domingos en la misa, decimos "Creo en el Espíritu Santo, Señor y Dador de vida." El Papa Juan Pablo II escribió una encíclica titulada "Dominum et Vivificantem" (1986), que significa "Señor y Dador de Vida," haciendo referencia a esta parte del Credo. En la encíclica menciona que el Espíritu Santo estuvo presente en la vida y en el ministerio de Jesús y que de esta forma fue posible que estos se establecieran (Dominum et Vivificantem 15-21) y el mismo Espíritu nos concede participar en su misión en el tiempo presente hasta el final de los tiempos. Sin el Espíritu Santo, no es posible participar en esta misión (Dominum et Vivificantem 67). En la oración nos acercamos al origen de nuestra misión: el Espíritu Santo. Al acercarnos al Espíritu, nuestra vida se regenera. Somos renovados espiritualmente y físicamente.

Cada persona recibe el llamado a la vocación general a la santidad, la vocación particular (sacerdocio, matrimonio, vida consagrada, vida soltera), y a la misión (un

compromiso concreto como un ministerio, una profesión o

llamado de Dios no es fácil, más bien llega bajo la forma



**Seminaristas Franciscanos y Diocesanos se reunieron para celebrar la fiesta de La Virgen de Guadalupe. Oremos por su perseverancia.**

convivencias especiales). La visión católica de la vocación es que esta es un llamado que viene de Dios. Dios es el que llama a cada persona a la santidad, a su vocación particular, y a misiones concretas en diferentes momentos de su vida. Frecuentemente, hay emoción y euforia al descubrir cualquiera de las tres expresiones de la vocación. Esto se observa en las personas que desean expresar su amor por Dios fervorosamente al salir de un retiro o experiencia espiritual. También es el caso cuando una pareja joven descubre las primeras señales de un próximo matrimonio, es común que la pareja nueva sufra al estar separados por un instante. Los compromisos que hacemos a diario también nos motivan bastante al principio. Sin embargo, al pasar el tiempo la verdad es que el

de la cruz de su Hijo. Por esta razón, el fuego de la fe cesa, las decisiones de la vida son interrumpidas y negadas rápidamente, y los compromisos diarios llegan a ser abandonados. Mientras la cruz detrás de la vocación parece volverse cada vez más pesada, es importante acercarse al Señor y Dador de vida: el Espíritu, quien es el medio por el cual Dios nos llama a cada uno. Lo hacemos para nuestra propia jornada, pero también lo podemos hacer sobre la jornada de alguien más. El resultado es vida y fuerzas renovadas.

Nuestros seminaristas son hombres con diferentes retos. Ellos vienen de diferentes experiencias culturales y tienen distintas historias familiares. Este es el caso para toda persona que busca vivir una vocación, pero por algún motivo

equivocadamente se cree que aquellos que están llamados al sacerdocio tienen poderes sobre naturales que los liberan del sufrimiento. Al contrario, si buscan auténticamente presidir sobre el misterio de la muerte salvífica del Señor en el altar de la Eucaristía, ellos estarán íntimamente unidos a su sufrimiento y a la obscuridad de este misterio (aunque eventualmente los frutos sean vida nueva y resurrección). Por lo tanto, como Iglesia oremos por estos hombres, nuestros seminaristas. Que ellos puedan cargar la cruz a la que se sintieron llamados con persistencia y valor.

Que el Espíritu renueve sus fuerzas cuando el camino se vuelve largo y pesado.

Los calendarios de Cuaresma distribuidos a cada parroquia, y disponibles en la Oficina de Vocaciones del Seminario San Carlos, sirven de invitación a los fieles de la diócesis a dedicar un momento de oración cada día por un seminarista. Aparte de orar por nuevas vocaciones, no olvidemos orar por los que ya buscan responder al llamado del Señor. Por estos, oremos.

Si desea recibir un Calendario Cuaresmal por Vocations por favor contacte a su parroquia o a La Oficina Diocesana de Vocaciones al (915) 872-8403.

**Loretto Academy**  
Middle and High School

**Admissions Exam**  
Saturday, February 9, 2019  
Check-in: 8:00 am  
Exam: 8:30 am  
Cost: \$30.00

**Open House**  
For Prospective Parents  
Saturday, February 9, 2019  
9:00 am  
Curriculum Presentation  
Questions and Answers  
Tour of the Academy

To register for exam or for additional information call (915) 566-8400 ext. 1109  
1300 Hardaway - El Paso, TX 79903-3198  
[www.loretto.org](http://www.loretto.org)

## DMRS Endowment Fund Key to the Future

**By Melissa M. Lopez,**  
Executive Director/Attorney at  
Law, Diocesan Migrant & Refugee  
Services, Inc.

Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services, Inc. (DMRS) has been serving El Paso and its immigrant community since 1986 when it began by representing refugees fleeing the horrors of civil wars in Central America. Our mission is to "provide legal services to immigrants and to engage in public advocacy and community outreach to advance justice and protect the rights of those we serve in the spirit of gospel values." The provision of free and low-cost legal services is vital to ensure access to justice for those who cannot otherwise afford it, and who could not then navigate the complicated and stressful immigration system by themselves. DMRS believes that a loving and welcoming community is fundamental to our faith and future. We help the vulnerable on their journey without regard to political ide-

ology through the delivery of exceptional legal immigration services.

DMRS has long been the largest provider of free and low-cost immigration legal services in West Texas and Southern New Mexico, and it is the largest Diocesan ministry in El Paso with a staff of 58, including 13 attorneys. As the only full-service legal aid clinic specializing in immigration-related matters, we serve approximately 20,000 low-income and indigent individuals per year. Through six programs, we provide a comprehensive range of immigration legal services including representation in family-based immigration matters, representation for religious workers, representation for Citizenship/Naturalization, representation related to benefits for survivors of domestic violence, other crimes and human trafficking, representation for individuals in removal proceedings before the Immigration Courts, services for

adults and unaccompanied immigrant children detained in the local immigration detention centers and shelters. Currently, 96% of DMRS services are free.

This past year saw a barrage of changes in immigration policies, procedures, and enforcement compelling immigrants to withdraw from community life and live in constant fear, while DMRS staff often feel like salmon swimming upstream in toxic waters. Immigrants are an immensely important part of El Paso and the surrounding areas. They make the greater El Paso/Las Cruces area a vibrant and economically healthy place to live. DMRS personnel deal frequently with uncertainty, anxiety, and stress. However, our dedicated employees also have a renewed energy to serve and protect immigrants who are the least among us. Taking all of these factors into consideration, maintaining free and low-cost immigration legal services is the principal and critical goal of

DMRS.

Thanks to many generous foundations and individual donors in 2018, DMRS was able to do just that. One generous donor in particular made a \$260,000 grant to DMRS to help expand its Removal Defense Unit. The Removal Defense Unit gives full representation to immigrants who are in removal or deportation proceedings. This donor asked that DMRS keep their identity anonymous and asked DMRS to raise \$260,000 to match the grant dollar for dollar within a calendar year of the donation. DMRS is well on its way to achieving this goal. As of the beginning of January 2019, a total of \$252,281.60 has been raised through grants, individual donations, and contributions to the DMRS Endowment Fund, which is managed by the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso.

In fact, it is through the hard work and dedication of the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso staff that DMRS has been able to achieve a large portion of the matching fund contributions up to this point. An invita-

tion only presentation and dinner was sponsored in part by the Foundation in October of 2018 to help increase knowledge about DMRS and encourage individuals to contribute to the DMRS Endowment Fund. This fund is the future of DMRS. With its growth, DMRS will become freer to pursue its mission to serve the neediest of our brother and sister immigrants. Won't you consider a donation to the DMRS Endowment Fund through the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso in the next several months? No matter how big or small your contribution, this will ensure that DMRS meets its goal to match the required funds for the anonymous grantor, and at the same time, you will contribute to seeking safety and justice for immigrants well into the future.

To contribute to the DMRS Endowment Fund, visit [elpasodiocesefoundation.org](http://elpasodiocesefoundation.org) or contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at 915.872.8412 or [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:slarkin@elpasodiocese.org). You can reach DMRS at 915.532.3975.

## Special Benefit for Seminarians at El Paso's Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

**By Sofia Larkin,**  
Major Gifts Officer, Foundation  
for the Diocese of El Paso

The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso proudly presents *Paul, Apostle of Christ* starring Jim Caviezel, Olivier Martinez, and James Faulkner on 4 Screens at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 from 6-9pm. Tickets are \$12. Each guest will receive 1 raffle ticket and a chance to win fun prizes. The Alamo Drafthouse is located at 250 E. Montecillo Boulevard on the west side. Proceeds benefit the Seminarian Education Endowment Fund.

Tickets can be purchased online at [Pray4Priests.org](http://Pray4Priests.org) or by phone at 915.872.8412, and must be picked up at the Catholic Foundation at 499 St. Matthews Street, Building G by Monday, April 8. You can make arrangements for the Foundation to mail you tickets by Friday, April 5. Tickets will not be sold at the theater and there is no Will Call.

The Seminarian Education Endowment Fund was created to ensure continual resources for the recruitment and training of seminarians to serve as the future leadership of our diocese. Recruiting and educating seminarians is a significant and critical investment. The responsibility of providing priests for the Diocese of El Paso, both spirituality and financially, belongs to all of us.

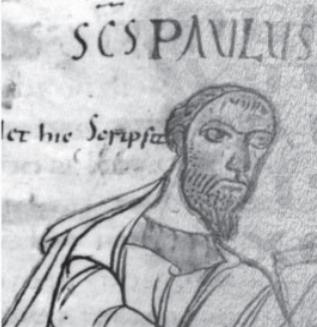
Come out and support our future priests by watching a movie and enjoying a deeper sense of fellowship. The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema offers

the best film, food, and drink all in one seat and has a zero tolerance for talking or cell phone use of any kind during movies.

For more information, please contact Julie Ruiz at 915.872.8412 or [jruiz@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:jruiz@elpasodiocese.org).

You can reach Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at 915.872.8412 or [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:slarkin@elpasodiocese.org). The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso is an independent 501 c 3 nonprofit located at 499 St. Matthews Street. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 9-12, 1-5, and by appointment.





SCS PAULUS  
let hoc Scriptum



Y COMO NUESTRO GUÍA ESPIRITUAL EL OBISPO DE ESTAMBUL  
FRAY RUBEN TIERRABLANCA

**Tras las Huellas del Nuevo Testamento**

PEREGRINACIÓN, BÍBLICA Y EVANGÉLICA  
DEL 15 AL 30 DE JUNIO DEL 2019  
GRECIA \* TURQUÍA \* ITALIA

**MISA PRIVADA PAPA FRANCISCO**





**CONCIERTO DE  
ROBERTO RAMIREZ  
EN ESTAMBUL**

**KM**  
PEREGRINACIONES

PARA MAYOR INFORMACIÓN:  
Facebook: peregrinacioneskm  
Whatsapp +52 1 656-563-1237  
[Peregrinacioneskm@yahoo.com](mailto:Peregrinacioneskm@yahoo.com)

# 2019PROGRESS.ORG



Progress is our annual invitation to the people of the Diocese of El Paso to participate in and support the ministries and programs of your local Church. These ministries and programs support parishes, individuals and families, and the broader community in the 10 counties of the Diocese, and they involve activities that individual parishes cannot carry out on their own. Together in Faith we are stronger and can build the community of God.

## Parishes, Schools, Families and Individuals Benefit

Parishes receive training, consultation, and direct support from the programs and ministries funded by the Catholic Ministry Appeal and individuals receive educational, spiritual, and social services. Your gift to the Progress 2019 Appeal will help fund:

TUITION FOR THE DIOCESE'S SEMINARIANS

TRAINING FOR A NEW CLASS OF DEACON CANDIDATES

PROGRAMS THAT STRENGTHEN CATHOLIC MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES

COUNSELING SERVICES FOR TROUBLED INDIVIDUALS

ONGOING FORMATION OF PARISH CATECHISTS

FAITH-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

FAITH FORMATION IN RURAL WEST TEXAS

## Make Your Donation Today



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

**\$2,100,000 GOAL**

**12,000 DONORS**

## How Can I Support the Catholic Ministry?

- At your church during one of the Commitment Weekends in February
- Online at [www.2019progress.org](http://www.2019progress.org)
- By phone at (915) 872-8412
- By mail to Progress 2019 Appeal  
P.O. Box 17993  
El Paso, Texas 79917

IN ORDER TO REACH OUR GOAL OF \$2,100,000 IN 2019, WE PRAYERFULLY ASK ALL RETURNING DONORS TO CONSIDER INCREASING THEIR PLEDGE TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF GIVING.

**PROGRESS**  
CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL 2019

MISSED YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE YOUR DONATION VISIT [WWW.2019PROGRESS.ORG](http://WWW.2019PROGRESS.ORG) TODAY.

**1** First Commitment Weekend  
**FEBRUARY**  
16-17, 2019

**2** Second Commitment Weekend  
**FEBRUARY**  
23-24, 2019

 FOUNDATION  
FOR THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO

### **Education & Formation**

Ministries that oversee our Catholic schools, provide support to parish catechetical programs, and train lay ministers

Office of Education | Religious Formation Ministry & West Texas Ministry | Tepeyac Institute

### **Evangelization**

Programs that provide evangelization and advocacy on behalf of those in need

Communications Office | Peace & Justice Ministry | Tigua Native American Ministry | Office of Worship

### **Pastoral Outreach**

Ministries that offer human services and outreach to the Catholic community

Catholic Campus Ministry | Catholic Counseling Services | Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services

| Marriage & Family Life Ministry | Youth & Young Adult Ministry

### **Seminarian & Diaconate Formation**

Ministries that recruit and train the seminarians and permanent deacons for the Diocese of El Paso

St. Charles Seminary and Major Seminarians Program | Permanent Diaconate Program | Vocations Ministry

### **Area of Greatest Need**

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



## **In 2018 Progress- Catholic Ministry Appeal supported a wide variety of diocesan pastoral services...**

### **Seminarians and Diaconate Formation**

Each year, Progress- Catholic Ministry Appeal supports those men who are preparing for a life of ordained service to the Diocese of El Paso.

### **Education and Formation**

Tepeyac Institute offers a variety of certification programs and assist parishes in the formation of needed ministries. 3,000 parishioners are directly affected by the continued work of this ministry in offering classes and bringing parishioners to a greater understanding of their faith.

### **Pastoral Outreach**

The Marriage and Family Ministry promotes and strengthens family life in the Diocese of El Paso through

marriage enrichment opportunities and preparation for the Sacrament of marriage. Each year, over 12,000 families are directly impacted by the services provided.

### **Evangelization**

The Communications Ministry publishes The Rio Grande Catholic newspaper on a monthly basis which goes out to more than 20,000 Catholic families, hosts The Bridge radio station and provides information on diocesan activities to newspapers, radio stations, and television stations throughout the 10 counties of the diocese.



## **Become a Friend of the Foundation**

We invite you to become a member of the Friends of the Foundation, a monthly giving program that allows you to contribute through automatic bank or credit card donations.

Automatic funds transfer is secure and convenient. Your monthly bank or credit card statement will clearly show how you have given, and your annual donations will be easy to track for tax purposes. You may change your pledge or quit at any time. Your gift to the Foundation will be automatically renewed each year as long as you are a member of the Friends of the Foundation – no more renew by mail forms!

Automatic monthly gifts provide us with the day-to-day support we need, in a way that's more convenient for you and much more cost-effective for us. That means your contribution works harder supporting our Catholic faith.

**To become our Friend, call the Foundation today at (915) 872-8412 or sign up for recurring donations online at [www.2019progress.org](http://www.2019progress.org).**

**Congratulations to the following churches that exceeded their parish goal in 2018 and won a \$5,000 cash prize through the parish raffle.**

**CORPUS CHRISTI MONASTERY**

**LITTLE FLOWER**

**ST. PATRICK CATHEDRAL**

**SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA**

**SANTA TERESITA- BUENA VISTA**

# 2019PROGRESS.ORG



## Progreso 2019 – Junto en la Fe

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

Estos ministerios y programas apoyan a las parroquias, individuos y familias y a toda la comunidad en general, en los 10 condados de la Diócesis, e involucran actividades que las parroquias individuales no pueden realizar por sí mismas. Juntos en la Fe somos más fuertes y podemos construir la comunidad de Dios.

## Parroquias, Escuelas, Familias e Individuos se Benefician

Las parroquias reciben capacitación, consultas y apoyo directo de los programas y ministerios financiados por la Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos y las personas reciben servicios educativos, espirituales y sociales. Su donación a la Campaña de Progreso 2019, ayudará a financiar:

PAGO DE MATRÍCULA PARA LOS SEMINARISTAS DIOCESANOS

FORMACIÓN PARA UNA NUEVA CLASE DE CANDIDATOS AL DIACONADO

PROGRAMAS QUE FORTALECEN A LOS MATRIMONIOS Y LAS FAMILIAS CATÓLICAS

SERVICIOS DE CONSEJERÍA PARA LAS PERSONAS CON PROBLEMAS

FORMACIÓN PERMANENTE PARA CATEQUISTAS PARROQUIALES

FACTIVIDADES BASADAS EN LA FE PARA NIÑOS, JÓVENES Y JÓVENES ADULTOS

EVANGELIZACIÓN Y FORMACIÓN DE FE PARA EL ÁREA RURAL DE WEST TEXAS

## Haga su Promesa de Donativo Hoy

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

**\$2,100,000 META**

**12,000 DONANTES**



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

- En su iglesia, durante uno de los fines de semana de compromiso en febrero
- En línea en [www.2019progress.org](http://www.2019progress.org)
- Por teléfono al (915) 872-8412
- Por correo a Campaña de Progreso 2019  
P. O. Box 17993  
El Paso, Texas 79917

CON EL FIN DE ALCANZAR NUESTRA META DE \$ 2.1 MILLONES EN EL 2019, PEDIMOS EN ORACIÓN QUE TODOS LOS DONANTES VUELVAN A CONSIDERAR AUMENTAR LA CANTIDAD DE SU COMPROMISO A UN NIVEL MÁS ALTO.



¿PERDIÓ LA OPORTUNIDAD DE HACER SU DONATIVO? VISITENOS EN: [\*\*1\*\* Primer fin de semana de Compromiso  
16-17 DE FEBRERO 2019](http://WWW.2019PROGRESS.ORG HOY MISMO!</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

**2** Segundo fin de semana de Compromiso  
23-24 DE FEBRERO 2019

 FOUNDATION  
FOR THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO

## Asigne Su Donativo al Área de su elección

Sus Donativos  
en Plena Labor

### Educación y Formación

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

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

### Evangelización

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

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

### Alcance Pastoral

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

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



## En el 2018 La Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos apoya a una amplia gama de servicios pastorales diocesanos. . .

### Formación de Seminaristas y Diáconos

Cada año, la Campaña Anual del Señor Obispo apoya a aquellos hombres que se preparan para una vida de ordenación al servicio de la Diócesis de El Paso.

### Educación y Formación

El Instituto Tepeyac ofrece una variedad de programas de certificación, además de ayudar a las parroquias en la formación de los ministerios, los cuales son muy necesarios. 3,000 feligreses se ven directamente apoyados por el trabajo continuo de este ministerio al ofrecer clases y hacer que los feligreses comprendan mejor su fe.

### Alcance Pastoral

El Ministerio de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar promueve y fortalece la vida familiar en la Diócesis de El Paso, a través de oportunidades de enriquecimiento matrimonial y preparación para el sacramento del matrimonio. Cada año, más de 12,000 familias se ven directamente influenciadas por los servicios brindados.

### Evangelización

El Ministerio de Comunicaciones publica mensualmente el periódico "The Rio Grande Catholic", el cual recibe a más de 20,000 familias católicas, aloja la estación de radio "The Bridge" y brinda información sobre las actividades diocesanas a los periódicos, estaciones de radio y canales de televisión, de los 10 condados de la Diócesis.



## Hazte Amigo de la Fundación

Lo invitamos a convertirse en miembro de "Los Amigos de la Fundación", programa de donaciones mensuales que le permite contribuir a través de donativos hechos con retiros automáticos bancarios y/o tarjeta de crédito.

La transferencia automática de fondos es segura y conveniente. El estado de cuenta mensual de su banco o tarjeta de crédito mostrará claramente cómo ha realizado su donación y será fácil realizar un seguimiento de sus donaciones anuales para efectos fiscales. Puede cambiar su promesa o renunciar en cualquier momento. Su donación a la Fundación se renovará automáticamente cada año, siempre y cuando sea miembro de los Amigos de la Fundación - ¡No más renovaciones anuales por correo!

Los obsequios mensuales automáticos nos brindan la asistencia diaria que necesitamos, de una manera que sea más conveniente para usted y mucho más rentable para nosotros. Eso significa que tu contribución trabaja más duro apoyando nuestra fe católica.

Para convertirse en nuestro Amigo, llame a la Fundación hoy al (915) 872-8412 o regístrese para recibir donaciones recurrentes en línea en [www.2019progress.org](http://www.2019progress.org).

**Felicidades a las siguientes Iglesias que Excedieron sus metas en el 2018 y se ganaron un premio de \$5,000.00 a través de la rifa parroquial**

**CORPUS CHRISTI MONASTERY**

**LITTLE FLOWER**

**ST. PATRICK CATHEDRAL**

**SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA**

**SANTA TERESITA – BUENA VISTA**

Gracias por su gran dedicación a la Diócesis de El Paso.

JUNTOS *en la Fe...*

Somos más fuertes.

Podemos ofrecer oración y apoyo a nuestros hermanos y hermanas.

Podemos construir la comunidad de Dios.