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# THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

Vol. 30, No. 3 Celebrating 30 Years serving the Diocese of El Paso March 2021

## Diocese of El Paso Lifts Restrictions to Allow Funeral Masses

By Fernie Cenicerros  
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

In response to improving numbers of those infected with the novel coronavirus in the El Paso community, and an improvement in the number of those hospitalized, the Diocese of El Paso has implemented a lifting of the restrictions for the celebration of funeral masses and vigils with safety protocols to include limits to the number of participants permitted.

In collaboration with funeral home directors, a set of protocols were developed to help insure the safety of all who participate while mourning the death of a loved one during the Vigil, Mass and Burial.

The protocols include a limit of 75 persons for the funeral mass and of 25 persons for the burial. Social distancing, a mask mandate and capacity limitations are already in place at funeral homes for all funeral vigils. Social distancing, mask mandates and other protocols will be in place at the church and cemetery.

Bishop Mark Seitz expressed his relief at being able to lift the restrictions to the funeral mass. “It’s been a long and difficult journey, and we’re so pleased finally to be able to say to families who have lost loved ones we will all join you in offering the mass for your loved one and will be able to be with you at the vigil at the funeral home as well,” Bishop Seitz said.

Bishop Seitz lamented the fact that funerals have not been available during this time of pandemic over the last 10 months.

“Our heart breaks for those who have lost loved ones during the course of these last 10 months or so, that we have not been able to celebrate funeral masses,” he said.

“What we have been saying all along is that we would like to gather with them and to offer a memorial mass for the loved one, when things improved,” he added. “So now might be a good time to be approaching parishes and trying to get something scheduled down the road, so that a mass can be offered with you for your loved one even though it might be sometime since their burial,” he ended.

The Diocese of El Paso along with El Paso Funeral Homes are encouraging those in high risk populations and the elderly to watch from home as live streams will be made available by either the parish or the funeral home.



The Diocese of El Paso has implemented a lifting of the restrictions for the celebration of funeral masses and vigils with safety protocols to include limits to the number of participants permitted. *Photo by Fernue Cenicerros.*

## La Diócesis Levanta Restricciones Para Permitir Misas De Funeral

Por Fernie Cenicerros  
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

En respuesta a la mejora del número de infectados por el nuevo coronavirus en la comunidad de El Paso, y a la mejora del número de hospitalizados, la Diócesis de El Paso ha implementado un levantamiento de las restricciones para la celebración de misas y vigiliass fúnebres con protocolos de seguridad para incluir límites al número de participantes permitidos.

En colaboración con los directores de las funerarias, se desarrolló un conjunto de protocolos para ayudar a garantizar la seguridad de todos

los que participan en el duelo por la muerte de un ser querido durante la Vigilia, la Misa y el Entierro.

Los protocolos incluyen un límite de 75 personas para la misa funeral y de 25 personas para el entierro. El distanciamiento social, el mandato de máscara y la limitación de aforo ya están en vigor en las funerarias para todas las vigiliass fúnebres. El distanciamiento social, el mandato de máscara y otros protocolos estarán en vigor en la iglesia y el cementerio.

El obispo Mark Seitz expresó su alivio al poder levantar las restricciones a la misa fúnebre.

“Ha sido un viaje largo y difícil, y estamos muy conten-

tos de poder decir finalmente a las familias que han perdido a sus seres queridos que todos se unirán a ustedes para ofrecer la misa por su ser querido y podrán estar con ustedes en la vigilia en la funeraria también”, dijo el obispo Seitz.

El obispo Seitz lamentó que no se hayan podido celebrar funerales durante este tiempo de pandemia en los últimos 10 meses.

“Nuestro corazón se rompe por aquellos que han perdido a sus seres queridos en el transcurso de estos últimos 10 meses más o menos, que no hemos podido celebrar sus misas fúnebres”, dijo.

“Lo que hemos estado dici-

endo todo el tiempo es que nos gustaría reunirnos con ellos y ofrecer una misa en memoria del ser querido”, añadió. “Así que ahora podría ser un buen momento para acercarse a las parroquias y tratar de programar algo en el camino, para que se pueda ofrecer una misa con ustedes por su ser querido, aunque haya pasado algún tiempo desde su entierro”, finalizó.

La Diócesis de El Paso, junto con las funerarias de El Paso, están animando a las personas de alto riesgo y a los ancianos a que vean la misa desde casa, ya que la parroquia o la funeraria ofrecerán transmisiones en directo.



Editor's Note / Nota del Editor

<p>Hello Faithful reader. In 2021, we are celebrating our 30th anniversary and as we move into our 30th faithful year, I have invited your former editors and contributors to the Rio Grande Catholic, to join us to give an insight into their time serving you as this newspaper's editor and</p>	<p>contributor. This month I am pleased to welcome back Elizabeth O'Hara, Editor of the Rio Grande from 2014-2016. Thank you Elizabeth for your faithful service to the people of our diocese.</p> <p>-Fernie Cenicerros, Editor</p>	<p>Hola, fiel lector. En 2021, estamos celebrando nuestro 30° aniversario y al entrar en nuestro 30° año fiel, he invitado a sus antiguos editores y colaboradores del Rio Grande Catholic, para que se unan a nosotros para dar una visión de su tiempo sirviendo a</p>	<p>usted como editor y colaborador de este periódico. Este mes me complace dar la bienvenida a Elizabeth O'Hara, editora de Rio Grande de 2014 a 2016. Gracias Elizabeth por su fiel servicio a la gente de nuestra diócesis.</p> <p>-Fernie Cenicerros Editor</p>
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EDITOR'S COLUMN - ELIZABETH O'HARA

Give Up Facebook For Lent?

I really wanted to give up Facebook for Lent, but I think I'm addicted to the "memories" tab. I literally wake up, roll over, fire up my phone and go to Memories first. There are photos of my children from a few years ago (when did they get so tall?!) and things our family did before my Dad died. And then there's just cool events that happened because of work. A few weeks ago, my memories were of Popepalooza as we called it in the Rio Grande Catholic office. It was one of the highlights of my time working at the diocese.

At the time I was the editor of the diocesan newspaper, I was simultaneously the media relations contact. I was coming off a long TV career here in El Paso and with three young children, including one we had recently adopted from China, I needed something that was equally fulfilling but 24/7. I also felt drawn to be back at The Church. If you



Elizabeth O'Hara

had asked me then if I considered myself "religious," I would've waived. My relationship with the church felt distanced and maybe even a little cold. But I was someone who still said my prayers, still was drawn to the rosary, in my own way observing things of importance to The Church. Working at the Diocese and in fact, having Bishop Mark Seitz as my immediate supervisor didn't leave much space for waivering. You can't fake interest when you're the editor of the Rio Grande Catholic, there's no way to pull that off no matter

how many years of writing and journalism experience you might have.

It was one day in December 2015 that the bishop came to see me in the office. "I have something to tell you," he said. Bishop Seitz told me that he'd gotten official word from the Juarez diocese – Pope Francis was coming to Mexico and more importantly, he would be in Juarez. We would have about 9 weeks to prepare for a cross-border, never-before-done-event. When you work for the bishop, you may want to say, "ARE YOU CRAZY?" but that's frowned upon. I think I said something like, "Philadelphia had a year and a half to get ready." (Pope Francis had been in Philly for the World Meeting of families, another great adventure members of the El Paso delegation made for my Facebook thread.) "We're going to announce on el Dia de la virgen," he said. "And then it will be a very busy start to the

year." It may have been the biggest understatement Bishop Seitz ever spoke.

Being the editor of the RGC was just one aspect of the job. There was me and one other person who worked in our office. Soon, we would receive so many calls from media around the world that we required an extra phone line. The voicemail filled up within a day and a half. According to Facebook, I was averaging 30 emails an hour at the height of the excitement. And on the day Pope Francis arrived at our beautiful border, I was staged at the in-between area along the international fence line. Our bishop was in Juarez and I was on the dirt mound with the migrants and disenfranchised on that warm February day. My job was to take in the scenes – the words, the expressions, the sniffing of those so moved by Pope Francis' blessing they were crying – I was there to record it all for the Rio Grande Catholic.

It was truly an honor. Late that afternoon, the pope's motorcade went back to the Juarez airport and he flew safely away. We could collectively breathe a sigh of relief that all the events had gone off as planned. I was on the dirt mound as a low-flying helicopter swept the area, kicking up dirt as the horseback Border Patrol agents rode past us, making sure that the crowds were headed back to their cars. I no longer felt distanced from my faith. I don't know if it was the papal visit or the job itself, working at the diocese, that brought me back to where I wanted to be. It was a few months later that I left my job as the editor, but I've always had a soft spot for Bishop Seitz and so many others who worked there. I wish I had taken more photos and written more funny stories about them – they would've made great Facebook memories.

Dejar a Facebook Para La Cuaresma?

Realmente quería dejar Facebook por la Cuaresma, pero creo que soy adicta a la pestaña "recuerdos". Literalmente me despierto, me doy la vuelta, enciendo el teléfono y voy primero a Recuerdos. Hay fotos de mis hijos de hace unos años (¿cuándo han crecido tanto?) y cosas que hacía nuestra familia antes de que muriera mi padre. Y luego hay eventos geniales que sucedieron por el trabajo. Hace unas semanas, mis recuerdos fueron del Popepalooza, como lo llamábamos en la oficina de Rio Grande Catholic. Fue uno de los momentos culminantes de mi trabajo en la diócesis.

En esa época yo era el editor del periódico diocesano, y al mismo tiempo era el contacto de relaciones con los medios de comunicación. Salía de una larga carrera en la televisión aquí en El Paso y con tres hijos pequeños, entre ellos uno que habíamos adoptado recientemente de China, necesitaba algo que fuera igual de satisfactorio pero que exigiera 24 horas al día. También me sentía atraído por volver a la Iglesia. Si me hubieran preguntado entonces si me consideraba "religiosa", habría dudado. Mi relación con la iglesia se sentía distanciada y quizás incluso un poco fría. Pero era una persona que seguía rezando, que seguía sintiéndose atraída por el rosario y que, a mi manera, observaba las cosas importantes de la Igle-



sia. Trabajar en la diócesis y, de hecho, tener al obispo Mark Seitz como mi supervisor inmediato no dejaba mucho espacio para vacilar. No se puede fingir el interés cuando se es el editor del Rio Grande Catholic, no hay manera de lograrlo sin importar cuántos años de experiencia en escritura y periodismo se tengan. Fue un día de diciembre de 2015 cuando el obispo vino a verme a la oficina. "Tengo algo que decirte", me dijo. El obispo Seitz me dijo que había recibido la noticia oficial de la diócesis de Juárez: el Papa Francisco vendría a México y, lo que es más importante, estaría en Juárez.

Tendríamos unas 9 semanas para prepararnos para un evento transfronterizo nunca antes realizado. Cuando trabajas para el obispo, es posible que quieras decir "¿estás loco?", pero eso está mal visto. Creo que dije algo así como: "Filadelfia tuvo un año y medio para prepararse". (El Papa Francisco había estado en Filadelfia para el Encuentro Mundial de las familias, otra gran aventura que hicieron los miembros de la delegación de El Paso para mi hilo de Facebook). "Vamos a anunciar en el Día de la virgen", dijo. "Y entonces será un comienzo de año muy movido". Puede que haya sido la

mayor subestimación que haya dicho el obispo Seitz. Ser el editor de la RGC era sólo un aspecto del trabajo. Estábamos yo y otra persona que trabajaba en nuestra oficina. Pronto recibimos tantas llamadas de los medios de comunicación de todo el mundo que necesitábamos una línea telefónica adicional. El buzón de voz se llenaba en un día y medio. Según Facebook, tenía una media de 30 correos electrónicos por hora en el momento más álgido. Y el día que el Papa Francisco llegó a nuestra hermosa frontera, yo estaba en la zona intermedia a lo largo de la línea de la valla

internacional. Nuestro obispo estaba en Juárez y yo estaba en el montículo de tierra con los migrantes y los privados de derechos en ese cálido día de febrero. Mi trabajo consistía en captar las escenas -las palabras, las expresiones, los mocos de aquellos que estaban tan conmovidos por la bendición del Papa Francisco que estaban llorando- estaba allí para grabarlo todo para el Rio Grande Catholic. Fue un verdadero honor. A última hora de la tarde, la caravana del Papa regresó al aeropuerto de Juárez y voló sin problemas. Pudimos respirar colectivamente de alivio al ver que todos los eventos se habían desarrollado según lo previsto. Yo estaba en el montículo de tierra mientras un helicóptero que volaba bajo barría la zona, levantando tierra mientras los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza a caballo pasaban por delante de nosotros, asegurándose de que las multitudes volvieran a sus coches. Ya no me sentía alejado de mi fe. No sé si fue la visita papal o el propio trabajo en la diócesis lo que me devolvió a donde quería estar. Unos meses más tarde dejé mi trabajo como editor, pero siempre he sentido debilidad por el obispo Seitz y por tantos otros que trabajaban allí. Me gustaría haber tomado más fotos y haber escrito más historias divertidas sobre ellos; habrían sido grandes recuerdos en Facebook.



# You Cannot Feast Without the Fast

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Eccl. 3:1) So begins the beautiful and wise poetry from the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. Our lives are marked by patterns and cycles. There are times for birth and for dying, for winter and for spring, times of joy and of sorrow. In his book, *In Tune with the World: A Theory of Festivity*, Joseph Pieper suggests that these cycles are absolutely necessary for our lives. Spring would not be spring without the winter that precedes it. Our ‘good times’ would not be truly good if they did not have ‘hard times’ to provide the contrast. If we were continually eating we would never appreciate a long awaited meal.

Jesus told his listeners that just as there was a time for celebrating, so there would be

a time for fasting. Remember the passage, “Then [the Pharisees and their scribes] said to him, ‘John’s disciples, like the disciples of the Pharisees, frequently fast and pray, but your disciples eat and drink.’ Jesus said to them, ‘You cannot make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you?’ The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.” (Lk. 5:33-35)

Pieper’s observation is that one of the major problems we have in our society today is the loss of fundamental patterns that help us discover the meaning of life. We, and particularly our children, have tended to have memories only of plenty. We have always had practically whatever we wanted and so we have not had a sense of longing for what God offers. We have

taken what we have had for granted without a spirit of joy and thanksgiving. We searched for some kind of experience that would delight and thrill us and since it was not to be found in the ordinary joys of life, nor in the promise of God’s future kingdom, we looked for it in illicit pleasures such as sex and drugs, in other risky or immoral behaviors and in sheer wasteful extravagance. Perhaps in this sense, the unwelcome Pandemic that continues to afflict us may be a situation God can use to help us come to a more balanced perspective on this passing world of ours.

For this reason also, the Season of Lent has great importance for us. Although the Season is well underway it is still not too late for you and your family to let it be fruitful. The penances we choose to undertake represent a voluntary acceptance and



Bishop Mark J. Seitz



participation in Christ’s cross as it is manifested in our life. Decide on some practices that bring to the forefront your love and service of God. Reflect on your sins and confess them. Set aside some of the luxuries that have you in their spell, so that you can have more time and treasure at your disposal for the sake of the poor. Fast.

Then you will have space to rediscover the One who alone can fill your longings. You will

find the simple blessings of God in life bring you new pleasure. You will rejoice in your freedom to live without the burden of so many excesses that appeared to be necessities. The Paschal Mystery of Jesus’ Passion, Death and Resurrection, which we will soon have the privilege to celebrate, will be revealed for you as the pattern that gives all life its meaning and leads to a life that will never end.

Bp. Mark

## No Se Puede Festejar Sin Estar En Ayunas

“Para todo hay una época, y un tiempo para cada cosa bajo el cielo”. (Eccl. 3:1) Así comienza la hermosa y sabia poesía del libro del *Eclesiastés* del Antiguo Testamento. Nuestras vidas están marcadas por patrones y ciclos. Hay tiempos para nacer y para morir, para el invierno y para la primavera, tiempos de alegría y de tristeza. En su libro *In Tune with the World: A Theory of Festivity*, Joseph Pieper sugiere que estos ciclos son absolutamente necesarios para nuestras vidas. La primavera no sería primavera sin el invierno que la precede. Nuestros “buenos tiempos” no serían realmente buenos si no tuvieran “tiempos difíciles” que nos proporcionen el contraste. Si estuviéramos continuamente

comiendo, nunca apreciaríamos una comida tan esperada.

Jesús dijo a sus oyentes que así como había un tiempo para celebrar, también habría un tiempo para ayunar. Recuerda el pasaje: “Entonces [los fariseos y sus escribas] le dijeron: ‘Los discípulos de Juan, como los de los fariseos, ayunan y oran con frecuencia, pero tus discípulos comen y beben’. Jesús les dijo: ‘No podéis hacer que los invitados a las bodas ayunen mientras el novio está con ellos, ¿verdad? Vendrán días en que el novio les será quitado, y entonces ayunarán en esos días’”. (Lc. 5:33-35)

La observación de Pieper es que uno de los principales problemas que tenemos en nuestra sociedad actual es la pérdida de los patrones fundamentales que

nos ayudan a descubrir el sentido de la vida. Nosotros, y especialmente nuestros hijos, hemos tendido a tener recuerdos sólo de la abundancia. Siempre hemos tenido prácticamente todo lo que queríamos y por eso no hemos tenido el sentido de anhelar lo que Dios ofrece. Hemos dado por sentado lo que hemos tenido sin un espíritu de alegría y agradecimiento. Hemos buscado algún tipo de experiencia que nos deleitara y emocionara y, como no se encontraba en las alegrías ordinarias de la vida, ni en la promesa del futuro reino de Dios, la hemos buscado en placeres ilícitos como el sexo y las drogas, en otros comportamientos arriesgados o inmorales y en el puro derroche. Tal vez en este sentido, la inoportuna pandemia que nos

sigue afligiendo puede ser una situación que Dios puede utilizar para ayudarnos a tener una perspectiva más equilibrada de este mundo nuestro que pasa.

También por esta razón, el tiempo de Cuaresma tiene una gran importancia para nosotros. Aunque el tiempo de Cuaresma ya está en marcha, todavía no es demasiado tarde para que tú y tu familia lo hagáis fructífero. Las penitencias que elegimos emprender representan una aceptación y participación voluntaria en la cruz de Cristo que se manifiesta en nuestra vida. Decide algunas prácticas que pongan en primer plano tu amor y servicio a Dios. Reflexiona sobre tus pecados y confíesalos. Deja a un lado algunos de los lujos que te tienen hechizado, para poder disponer

de más tiempo y tesoros en favor de los pobres. Ayuna.

Entonces tendrás espacio para redescubrir a Aquel que es el único que puede colmar tus anhelos. Descubrirás que las sencillas bendiciones de Dios en la vida te aportan un nuevo placer. Te alegrarás de tu libertad para vivir sin la carga de tantos excesos que parecían ser necesidades. El Misterio Pascual de la Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Jesús, que pronto tendremos el privilegio de celebrar, se revelará para ti como la pauta que da sentido a toda la vida y conduce a una vida que no tendrá fin.

Bp. Mark

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# Cathedral High School AP Passes Away Due To Covid-19

By Fernie Cenicerros  
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

Cathedral High School announced the passing of Mr. Gerardo “Gerald” Gamez, 55, Assistant Principal of Cathedral High School on February 6. Mr. Gamez passed from complications due to the novel Coronavirus.

A 27-year veteran of Public Schools in the El Paso Community and current assistant principal of Cathedral, Gamez was diagnosed with COVID-19 while on bereavement leave in early January. It is believed that Mr. Gamez contracted the virus while on leave from Cathedral High School.

“We are in absolute shock at the loss to our Cathedral High School community,” Mr. Adolfo Sanchez, Principal of Cathedral High School said. “Mr. Gamez was beloved member, not only of our Cathedral community, but of the greater educational community in El Paso,” he added.

Principal Sanchez expressed his admiration of Mr. Gamez’s love for his students and his overall demeanor which made him a beloved member of the Cathedral Community.



Cathedral High School announced the passing of Mr. Gerardo “Gerald” Gamez, 55, Assistant Principal of Cathedral High School on February 6. Mr. Gamez passed from complications due to the novel Coronavirus. *Photo provided by Cathedral High School*

“He is what the definition of what a nice guy is,” Sanchez said. “He loved being an active participant in the success of our student’s educational experience,” he added. “He was a

very devout Catholic and had immense faith in the Catholic Church.” Prior to Mr. Gamez’s two years as Cathedral High School’s Assistant Principal, Mr. Gamez

retired from the Ysleta Independent School District where he served as an Assistant Principal at Del Valle and Eastwood High School. Previous to his role as Assistant Principal he served as

a counselor in San Elizario ISD, El Paso ISD and at Hanks High School in Ysleta ISD. Gamez is survived by his wife, three children and one grandchild.

## Fallece El AP De La Escuela Secundaria Catedral A Causa Del Covid-19

Por Fernie Cenicerros  
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

Cathedral High School anunció el fallecimiento del Sr. Gerardo “Gerald” Gamez, de 55 años, subdirector de Cathedral High School el 6 de febrero. El Sr. Gámez falleció por complicaciones debidas al nuevo Coronavirus.

Veterano de 27 años en las escuelas públicas de la comuni-

dad de El Paso y actual subdirector de Cathedral, Gamez fue diagnosticado con COVID-19 mientras estaba de licencia por duelo a principios de enero. Se cree que el Sr. Gámez contrajo el virus mientras estaba de licencia en la escuela secundaria Cathedral.

“Estamos en absoluta conmoción por la pérdida para nuestra comunidad de Cathedral High School”, dijo el Sr. Adolfo Sán-

chez, director de Cathedral High School. “El Sr. Gámez era un miembro muy querido, no sólo de nuestra comunidad de la Cathedral, sino de la gran comunidad educativa de El Paso”, añadió.

El director Sánchez expresó su admiración por el amor del Sr. Gámez por sus estudiantes y su comportamiento general que lo convirtió en un miembro querido de la comunidad de la Cathedral.

“Él es la definición de lo que es un buen tipo”, dijo Sánchez. “Le encantaba ser un participante activo en el éxito de la experiencia educativa de nuestros estudiantes”, añadió. “Era un católico muy devoto y tenía una inmensa fe en la Iglesia Católica”.

Antes de los dos años del Sr. Gámez como Asistente del Director de la Preparatoria Cathedral, el Sr. Gámez se retiró

del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Ysleta donde sirvió como Asistente del Director en la Preparatoria Del Valle y Eastwood. Antes de su papel como Asistente del Director, sirvió como consejero en San Elizario ISD, El Paso ISD y en la Escuela Secundaria Hanks en Ysleta ISD.

A Gámez le sobreviven su esposa, tres hijos y un nieto.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

Fr. German Alzate-Agudelo	3/4
Fr. Juan Manuel Heredia Hernandez OFM	3/4
Fr. Michael Lewis	3/20
Fr. Juan Victor Gamino Trejo, MNM	3/20
Fr. Apolinar Samboni	3/25
Fr. Mount Joseph Selvan Durai Raj, SJ	3/30
Fr. Wilson Cuevas	3/30

### ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Fr. Emanuel Alcazar	3/17/1989
Fr. Roberto Alvarado	3/17/1989
Fr. Robert S. Kobe (Retired)	3/9/1979



#### Diocese offers assistance for victims of sexual abuse

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

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

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



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# Casa Guadalupe Retreat House Gets Creative To Raise Money

By Sofia Larkin  
Major Gifts Officer

Mark your calendar! This is a unique opportunity to bid on mini masterpieces created by Bishop Mark (with a little help from his friend, Hal Marcus) and beloved priests in the Diocese of El Paso during a special online auction from Friday, March 12 at 12 noon through Sunday, March 14 at 8pm.

Casa Guadalupe Retreat House was two weeks away from launching the development of a plaza and prayer space when the pandemic hit. Retreat House Director Dr. Verónica Rayas thought about what she could do to inspire fundraising while giving our pastors a creative outlet during quarantine. She purchased beautiful Mexican statuettes and prayed she could find a few priests to paint them. She was overwhelmed with the positive response. Bishop Mark and a number of pastors went to work on their mini masterpieces, including lovingly naming and signing each one, and now you get the chance to take one (or more!) home with you.

Visit [casaguadalupe retreat-house.com](http://casaguadalupe retreat-house.com) and start bidding on Friday, March 12 at 12 noon.



Bishop Mark Seitz (with a little help from his friend, Hal Marcus) and beloved priests in the Diocese of El Paso, painted Mexican Statuetes for the Casa Guadalupe Auction. *Photo Courtesy Bishop Seitz.*

Bidding instructions will be provided prior to the event. The bidding will start at \$75 each and go up in increments of \$20. You have through Sunday, March 14 at 8pm to bid. Winners will be contacted when the auction

is over to confirm a delivery schedule. Casa Guadalupe has a goal of raising \$24,000 to develop the Casa Guadalupe Plaza and Prayer Garden. There are also naming opportunities. With a \$100 donation, you get

to put a name on a Talavera tile which will be part of the prayer garden area. In addition, you can dedicate a planter, the bell tower or the prayer wall in honor or memory of a loved one, the person who taught you the faith, and

the one who taught you to pray.

Future plans include facilities for youth and other types of retreats. Casa Guadalupe will need the support of many partners and volunteers, construction experts and materials, electricians, plumbers, engineers, painters, artists architects, interior designers, landscapers and more.

Casa Guadalupe retreat house offers retreats, workshops, and conferences to help guide people in their spiritual journey. The purchase of the retreat house, formerly known as Holy Trinity, is an historic moment for the diocese, which will now be able to offer a variety of exciting retreats and programs for the various parishes and groups in the Diocese of El Paso. New possibilities for the retreat house, including spiritual programs, upgrading of facilities, and future new facilities, are being created. Casa Guadalupe retreat house opened May 2018. Casa Guadalupe Retreat House welcomes gifts of monetary donations, supplies and volunteer time.

To donate or for more information, please contact Verónica Rayas at 915.342.7859 or visit [casaguadalupe retreathouse.com](http://casaguadalupe retreathouse.com).

# Casa Guadalupe Se Pone Creativa Para Recaudar Fondos

By Sofia Larkin  
Major Gifts Officer

¡Marque su calendario! Esta es una oportunidad única para pujar por mini obras maestras creadas por el Obispo Mark (con un poco de ayuda de su amigo, Hal Marcus) y queridos sacerdotes de la Diócesis de El Paso durante una subasta especial en línea desde el viernes 12 de marzo a las 12 del mediodía hasta el domingo 14 de marzo a las 8pm.

La Casa de Retiros Casa Guadalupe estaba a dos semanas de lanzar el desarrollo de una plaza y espacio de oración cuando la pandemia golpeó. La directora de la Casa de Retiros, la Dra. Verónica Rayas, pensó en lo que podía hacer para inspirar la recaudación de fondos y al mismo tiempo dar a nuestros pastores una salida creativa durante la cuarentena. Compró hermosas estatuillas mexicanas y rezó para encontrar algunos sacerdotes que las pintaran. Se sintió abrumada por la respuesta positiva. El obispo Mark y varios párrocos se pusieron a trabajar en



El Padre José Morales y otros sacerdotes de la Diócesis de El Paso, pintaron estatuillas mexicanas para la subasta de la Casa Guadalupe. *Photo Courtesy of Father Morales*

sus mini obras maestras, incluyendo el nombre y la firma de cada una de ellas, y ahora tienes la oportunidad de llevarte una (o

más) a casa. Visita [casaguadalupe retreat-house.com](http://casaguadalupe retreat-house.com) y empieza a pujar el viernes 12 de marzo a las 12 del


mediodía. Las instrucciones para pujar se proporcionarán antes del evento. La puja comenzará en 75 dólares cada una y subirá en incrementos de 20 dólares. Tienes hasta el domingo 14 de marzo a las 20:00 horas para pujar. Los ganadores serán contactados cuando la subasta termine para confirmar el horario de entrega. La Casa Guadalupe tiene la meta de recaudar \$24,000 para desarrollar la Plaza y el Jardín de Oración de la Casa Guadalupe. También hay oportunidades para ponerle nombre. Con un donativo de 100 dólares, puedes poner un nombre en un azulejo de Talavera que formará parte del área del jardín de oración. Además, puedes dedicar una jardinera, el campanario o el muro de oración en honor o en memoria de un ser querido, de la persona que te enseñó la fe y de la que te enseñó a rezar.

Los planes futuros incluyen instalaciones para jóvenes y otros tipos de retiros. Casa Guadalupe necesitará el apoyo de muchos socios y voluntarios, expertos en construcción y materiales,

electricistas, fontaneros, ingenieros, pintores, artistas arquitectos, diseñadores de interiores, paisajistas y más.

La casa de retiros Casa Guadalupe ofrece retiros, talleres y conferencias para ayudar a guiar a la gente en su viaje espiritual. La compra de la casa de retiros, antes conocida como Holy Trinity, es un momento histórico para la diócesis, que ahora podrá ofrecer una variedad de emocionantes retiros y programas para las diversas parroquias y grupos de la Diócesis de El Paso. Se están creando nuevas posibilidades para la casa de retiros, incluyendo programas espirituales, mejora de las instalaciones y futuras nuevas instalaciones. La casa de retiros Casa Guadalupe abrió sus puertas en mayo de 2018. La casa de retiros Casa Guadalupe agradece los donativos monetarios, los suministros y el tiempo de los voluntarios.

Para donar o para más información, por favor contacte a Verónica Rayas al 915.342.7859 o visite [casaguadalupe retreat-house.com](http://casaguadalupe retreat-house.com).



## 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

Sunday 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





# ICE Deports Survivor Of Walmart Shooting

By Sandra Ramirez  
*Communications Director, DMRS*

August 3, 2019 is a day that changed the lives of many El Pasoans and fronterizos in our community. It was the day a person from outside of our community drove hundreds of miles with the specific intention of killing our friends and neighbors. Today, we still mourn 23 people who died as a result of his hatred. We also thank God for those who survived, and pray that He is with them as they live with the trauma of what they witnessed that day. One of those witnesses and survivors is a woman named Rosa.

Rosa was born in Ciudad Juarez and moved to El Paso when she was 14 years old. She made friends in El Paso, graduated from high school, and worked in El Paso. It was her dream to go to college, but accepted that it was not a possibility for her because she was undocumented.

On August 3, a trip to the Walmart grocery store changed Rosa’s life forever.

“My sister was driving up to the Walmart and when we saw what was happening she went into shock. Her children were shouting, ‘Mom, let’s go! Mom, let’s go!’ My sister finally reacted and we left. We didn’t stay because we were scared to stay and be killed,” recalled Rosa.

Rosa and her family were able to get away uninjured. However, the trauma is still something she



lives with every day. Following the shooting, Rosa watched news coverage and heard that police were looking for witnesses to come forward.

“When you are illegal, you don’t want to talk. You do not want to be seen, but something was telling me, you need to go and tell what you saw,” said Rosa.

Rosa is represented by Anna Hey, Supervisor of the Crime Victims Unit at Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services. Ms.

Hey accompanied Rosa to speak with the El Paso Police Department, the FBI and Homeland Security Investigators about what she witnessed.

As a survivor of the Walmart shooting, Rosa is eligible for a U visa. The application requires a certification to prove the applicant has been helpful with an investigation. The El Paso County District Attorney’s Office provided the certification in September 2020, more than a year after the shooting. Rosa was

in the process of collecting the additional documents needed for the application, but the process was delayed when many government offices closed to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On the evening of January 27, 2021 Rosa was driving home from work when she was pulled over for a broken brake light. The officer advised Rosa she had unpaid traffic citations from 2015. Rosa explained that she had agreed to a payment plan to those citations in the past, she

believed had been resolved. Rosa also had an existing deportation order from 2019. Rosa was arrested and taken to the El Paso County Detention Center.

Only two days later, Rosa was released from jail, and immediately taken into custody by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Rosa explained that she was a survivor of the Walmart shooting and was cooperating as a witness. ICE agents decided to deport her anyway.

“Rosa is a survivor of one of the most horrific events to ever take place in El Paso. The decision to deport her amounts to a re-victimization of this young lady, who only came forward to help build the case against the shooter in the racist attack,” said Hey.

Rosa remains in Juarez. Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services is advocating for Rosa’s return to El Paso. Despite her experience, Rosa remains prepared to testify against the person who attacked our community.

“I want to help even though everything happened. I want to help with what I saw. I want to help my community because it is my community, too,” she said.

You can find more information about how to help Rosa at [www.dmrp-ep.org](http://www.dmrp-ep.org).

If you or someone you know needs help with their immigration case, please contact our office to schedule a consultation. You could be eligible for free legal services. Call 915-532-3975.



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**EL PASO**

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\*PLEASE NOTE THAT DURING OUR CURRENT PANDEMIC, SERVICES ARE RESTRICTED TO ONLY 10 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE. EVERYONE MUST WEAR A FACE MASK AND SOCIAL DISTANCING IS REQUIRED.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COMPLIANCE.



# Welcome Home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Statue

By Sofia Larkin  
Major Gifts Coordinator

There was an outpouring of grief when the St. Patrick Cathedral Sacred Heart statue was vandalized last fall. Shock and sadness brought together donors from all over the country who felt compelled to pray and to give.

The vandalism of the 8-foot statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the historic St. Patrick Cathedral on September 15, 2020 left many concerned that the statue could not be repaired. So many members of the faithful had looked to the Sacred Heart, his arms open wide in welcome, for almost 90 years during some of the most joyful and challenging times in their lives, and the thought of its destruction and possible replacement was difficult to accept. The statue has been at the Cathedral almost as far back as the dedication ceremony which took place on Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1917.

The Sacred Heart was shipped to Daprato Rigali Studios in Chicago for repair on October 8, 2020. It was the Daprato Brothers, today Daprato Rigali Studios, founded in 1860, who made the original statue. The same company lovingly restored the statue and prepared it for its journey home. Shipping the Sacred Heart



8ft Statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus vandalized in October has been restored and awaiting arrival at St. Patrick Cathedral. *Photo Courtesy of Daprato Rigali Studios, Chicago, Illinois*

back to the Cathedral was more complicated than it was getting it to Chicago when the statue was broken and in pieces.

Elizabeth (Lisa) Rigali, the director of art and design at Daprato Rigali Studios who spearheads many of their painting projects and is one of the four 4th generation owners of Daprato Rigali Studios, shared that it was a great pleasure and honor to restore the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She detailed the painstaking restoration process

saying they first had to reinforce the body to the base and then the head to the base. At that point, they sculpted a new hand, arm, and face. The statue masters pieced together all of the cracked pieces of plaster and once the statue was intact, they cleaned the entire thing and sealed it with surface painting. The statue was painted in traditional colors and sealed with a finish coat.

Many donors contributed a total of \$38,549 to the Cathedral Heart Statue Fund to support

restoration of the statue, shipping costs, repair of the damaged altar, and contribute to an upgraded security system at St. Patrick Cathedral.

Located on the Northeast corner of Mesa and Arizona, the Cathedral is a work of art and an historic landmark. Plans to build the church of St. Patrick originated with the Irish Catholic community in El Paso in 1908 when parishioners at Holy Family Church, formerly St. Mary Chapel, began to fundraise

for a larger church. When Bishop Anthony Schuler, S.J. became the first bishop of El Paso in November 1915, he announced his intentions to make St. Patrick the Cathedral. On November 12, 1916, Bishop Schuler blessed the cornerstone and the site of the altar was marked by a large wooden cross. On November 19, 1917, the finished St. Patrick Church was officially designated by Bishop Schuler as the Cathedral for the Diocese of El Paso.

The Catholic Foundation is helping to oversee the distribution of donations intended to support the Cathedral Sacred Heart Statue Fund and the parish, and extends its sincere appreciation to all who contributed in any amount and prayed for the statue’s restoration and safe return, especially the St. Patrick Cathedral community and leadership. Once again, the Diocese of El Paso came together in faith to overcome pain and obstacles from a place of compassion and forgiveness.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!  
*For more information, to discuss the giving that best suits you and your family, and to notify the Catholic Foundation of your plans, please contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:slarkin@elpasodiocese.org) or 915.433.2003.*

## Undecided, Your Catholic Foundation Can Help

By Sofia Larkin  
Major Gifts Coordinator

We’ve partnered with FreeWill to make planned giving easier than ever, and completely Free. FreeWill’s tool allows you to write a will online, and only takes 20 minutes to complete your legally valid plans.

If you don’t have a will or your will needs an update, you’ll complete the process with a completely up-to-date plan that protects your loved ones and assets, in addition to defining your legacy. FreeWill can also be used with more complicated estates by generating a list of documented wishes that can be brought to an attorney.

Visit [FreeWill.com/catholic-foundationep](https://FreeWill.com/catholic-foundationep) to get started today! The giving platform will walk you through each step, and is designed to make the process as easy and fast as possible.

### Consider Gifts in Lieu of Flowers and for Special Occasions

The Catholic Foundation has an easy way for parishioners to recognize family and loved ones in times of sorrow and joy. Parishioners may contribute to endowed funds in lieu of flowers to memorialize and to honor or recognize special occasions like weddings, baptisms, First Holy Communion, quinceañeras, and graduations.

When you make a donation include a note saying whom it memorializes. Also add it on the notation line of the check or



online donation form itself: “In memory of...” or “In honor of...” Include your address, as well, so we can alert the family as to where to send an acknowledgment.

If you want to be sure that the family knows about your contribution, it’s fine to mention

it in person or in your sympathy or congratulatory note: “We’ve remembered Maria with a contribution to the Catholic Foundation.”

Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso and designated for the

parish, school or ministry fund of the donor’s choice.

The Foundation will send an acknowledgement of your donation to the family or loved one being honored or memorialized. It’s a wonderful and meaningful gift anytime.

For more information, to

discuss the giving that best suits you and your family, and to notify the Catholic Foundation of your plans, please contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:slarkin@elpasodiocese.org) or 915.433.2003.



# Will Things Ever Go Back To Normal?



## Janet M. Crowe

Sonia slammed the front door behind her and stomped down the hall. Throwing her backpack on the kitchen floor, she ripped off her facemask and tossed it on the washing machine before plopping down in the chair with a disgusted grunt.

Her mother had listened to the slamming door and stomping feet and watched the slumping form of her daughter who had collapsed in the kitchen chair. It would have been impossible to interpret her teenager’s mood for anything but weariness and disgust. However, she smiled and asked, “Hi, honey, did you have a good day?”

“Good day!” exclaimed her daughter. “Mom, are you totally clueless? I am so sick of this ... this ... this tiresome pandemic. I can’t talk to my friends except from six feet away. Do you know how difficult it is to talk about boys when you have to shout to make yourself heard, especially with these stupid masks? No one understands what we’re saying because they

muffle our words. I don’t even know if I heard the teacher’s lesson right and we’re having a quiz tomorrow. I can’t hang out with my friends. We can’t go anywhere to have fun. It’s been over a year, Mom! When will things get back to normal?”

“Oh, is that Normal with a capital N or just normal normal?” Mom teased, trying to lighten the mood.

“You’re so funny, Mom,” Sonia groaned sarcastically.

Seeing her daughter longingly eyeing the cookie the jar, Mom handed a plate of carrot and celery sticks along with a bowl of peanut butter to her teenager.

“Thanks, Mom,” sighed Sonia, dipping celery into the peanut butter.

“Honey, why did you give up cookies for Lent?” Mom asked. “I mean, giving up cookies isn’t going to bring you any closer to God.”

“Oh, Mom,” answered Sonia, “that’s not all I’m doing. You know I like to do a small sacrifice along with reading the Bible or doing extra good works to help others. You go to adoration each week along with a daily rosary. Why do you do that? I ask even though I know the answer because I know you aren’t really just changing the subject. You’re sneaky that way.”

Mom laughed and said, “You’re right. We’ve often talked about how small sacrifices

help us realize the inner strength we possess which enables us to resist bigger temptations. Lent is about eliminating obstacles that keep us from living the life God wants for us as well as doing more to get back on the path that will bring us closer to Him. But when Lent is over, you’ll go back to eating cookies again. Will you be any closer to God?”

“Mom,” groaned Sonia, “I’m tired, just make your point already.”

“What I’m saying is that Lent is a failure if we just end our sacrifices and stop our extra activities and go back to the way we were before.”

“Okay,” moaned Sonia, “but how does that relate to this tiresome pandemic? When will things go back to Normal, with a capital N?”

“You’re right, this past year has been difficult,” Mom agreed, “but things are never going to go back to the way they were, and we shouldn’t want or expect them to go back to what we once considered to be normal. Hopefully, we have learned something from this past year. Things happened that opened our eyes, things that made us cry, things that made us reassess our priorities. There is no more Normal with a capital N anymore. We have to make a new normal, just a regular normal, out of the things we experienced and the things we learned.”

“What did we learn?” Sonia asked.

“Jobs, bills, homes, these are facts of life,” Mom began, “but sometimes things happen that affect them. People lose their jobs and can’t pay their bills and might even lose their homes. Do we just sit back and watch and cluck our tongues over their misfortune? Church is more than a building; it’s a group of people worshipping together and supporting one another spiritually. We’ve missed that togetherness and mutual support, but have we learned that we need to take that spiritual support outside of the walls of the church building and spread our love and our faith to others where they are in need?”

“I’m still not sure I understand,” Sonia said.

“Isolation has been the norm for the past year,” Mom explained. “We definitely want to return to a time when we can get together with others. However, have we learned from this experience how difficult isolation can be for people? When things open back up again, there will still be people who have no support system, or who are afraid to ask for help. Will we go back to our merry ways or have we learned from our own isolation that we should be reaching out to others to help them?”

With a thoughtful wrinkle in her brow, Sonia looked at her mother and said, “In other

words, do we go back to eating the cookies and just forget about this year-long period of sacrifice? Or do we learn from our experiences?”

“Exactly!” beamed her mother. “For some, the hardship has been severe, and they will still need help after restrictions ease and things open up again. For those of us whose difficulties have been less hard to bear, will we make the effort to help those who are still in need? Or will we claim that things are back to normal and shake our heads when people need help? We can curse the darkness or we can be a light in the dark. It’s up to us to decide how we want to face tomorrow.”

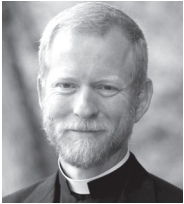
“Rather than going Back, with a capital B, to Normal,” Sonia smiled, “we need to be moving Forward with not just a capital F but with capital expressions of ongoing Help and Love for those who will continue to need assistance.”

“Forward, not back,” Mom agreed, “which will put us on the path that God has chosen for us to walk and will lead us closer to Him.”

“Let’s get walking, Mom,” Sonia said, grabbing a couple more carrots. “I’m sure there are ways we can help right now. Normal is overrated, let’s move Forward and be a Light instead.”

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

# The “Quality of Life” Error



## Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

During “serious illness conversations,” some doctors will ply their patients with this question: “What is your minimally acceptable quality of life?”

Behind the question can be the implication that if patients are experiencing a low quality of life, their medical treatments can be discontinued because their life has become “no longer worth living.”

This can even become a shorthand to justify actions like physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia. Making quality of life assessments about ourselves or others can lead us to devalue the gift of human life by insisting it must have a certain amount of “quality” before it can be deemed “meaningful” or “worthwhile.”

The clearest rebuttal of the “Quality of Life” error I’ve come across was from a 64-year-old retired Boeing

computer programmer named John Peyton (1945-2009). He lived in Kent, Washington, and had an unusually aggressive form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. The disease made him totally dependent on Patricia, his wife of 40 years. She dressed him, fed him, and regularly shifted his body position in the living room recliner where he spent his declining months.

As Peyton’s once-strong voice gradually began to fade away, he continued to use it publicly to oppose and lobby against Initiative 1000, the assisted suicide initiative in Washington.

When he was interviewed by Laura Ingraham of Fox News, he said, “I’m one of those people who is somewhat of a target of the initiative and I don’t know how we as a society could really consider making doctors into killers.”

Laura countered: “John, I think a lot of people who are for this type of assisted suicide would say, ‘Look, what about the quality of life?’ ‘Look, you know, people suffering like you — what kind of quality of life do you really have?’ What do you say to those people?”

His reply was as brilliant as it

was simple:

“I have a marvelous quality of life! Right now I am totally dependent. I can do nothing for myself. I’m effectively paralyzed. But I have a family. I have friends. I have my church community. I have loving support all around me. I don’t understand how anyone could deny that I have a very high quality of life, and it gets me to understand and be compassionate toward those without the support that I have. Rather than giving them the temptation to kill themselves, we should be trying to figure out how to help them to have the quality of life I enjoy.”

Peyton’s answer cuts to the heart of the matter: if anyone who is sick or dying is facing a low quality of life, we should take steps to raise and improve it. His story also reminds us how the one-sided category of “quality of life” can easily tempt us in the wrong direction when it comes to basic moral duties owed to our loved ones in compromised states like a coma, ALS, stroke, Alzheimers, or dementia.

Instead of making quality of life judgments about people, we should be making “quality of treatment” judgments for those who are ailing and vulnerable,

and perhaps “quality of help” judgments against ourselves.

As such, our focus should be on the benefits and burdens of a proposed medical intervention rather than on trying to impose our own conclusion that certain individuals no longer have enough value or meaning in their lives to merit receiving a particular treatment. Their humanity is violated if they are treated according to their functionality or quality of life, rather than according to their personal dignity.

Of course everyone has a certain natural fear or hesitation when it comes to living in a disabled or compromised state. We may also be afraid of “being a burden to others.” When we acknowledge that the gift of life has “absolute value,” that doesn’t mean we must do absolutely everything scientifically available to maintain it, but it does mean that we should exercise good stewardship over it, making use of ordinary means of treatment and receiving supportive care, even in the face of imminent decline.

It also means the decision to refuse or stop a particular medical treatment should be based on the judgment that the treatment itself is extraordinary, that is to say, it offers minimal

benefit or is unduly burdensome. It should not be because we conclude that someone’s life itself lacks value and needs to end.

Individuals struggling with grave ailments, even though they may be very compromised and unable to act as their own decision makers, remain persons of great moral worth. They contribute to the common good simply by being, rather than by doing or choosing. Moreover, they continually call each of us to a higher and more beautiful standard of full acceptance, loving support and authentic care, even and especially in the midst of very challenging medical circumstances. They raise the bar for us and we should respond by elevating their quality of 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) and [www.fathertad.com](http://www.fathertad.com).*



# Los Siete Miedos Basicos Que Vencer



Padre Wilson Cuevas

En este Camino de la Cuaresma, haga un inventario de si mismo y vea que miedos invaden sus pensamientos. Empiece por identificarlos y analicé la forma como puede eliminarlos de su mente los siete miedos básicos: La indecisión, la duda, el temor a la crítica, la enfermedad, las influencias negativas, la vejez y la muerte. Estos siete terribles miedos se encuentran relacionados, allí donde hay uno de ellos, puedes estar seguro que los otros seis están cerca. Pensar que nuestras mentes son controladas nos suena más bien como ciencia ficción, como nano chips implantado por espías de una conspiración de gobiernos enemigos... Sin embargo hay un sentido real en que aquello en lo que concentramos nuestro pensamiento, va a determinar qué y quien “controlan nuestra mente”. Cuando nos concentramos en nuestros temores, responsabilidades, obligaciones y problemas, permitimos que nuestro pensamiento sea controlado por la ansiedad y las preocupaciones. Cuando permitimos que el Espíritu Santo de

Dios controle nuestras mentes experimentamos vida, armonía y paz. No preocupación y duda. Dios tiene todo bajo control y debemos confiar en El, completamente, no importa lo que pase porque El es bondadoso y fiel con todos.

El tiempo de la Cuaresma, nos brinda la oportunidad de enfocar nuestra atención sobre la causa y la cura de los siete temores básicos. Antes de poder dominar un enemigo debemos conocer su nombre, sus hábitos y el lugar de residencia. Estos siete miedos básicos que todo ser humano sufre en una u otra ocasión, ya sea por la presencia de uno de ellos o en una combinación de los mismos. Cualquier persona seria afortunada si no sufriera de ninguno de los siete. Los temores no son más que estados de la mente. Y los estados mentales de cada cual se halla sometido a control y decisión. El ser humano no puede crear nada que no haya concebido en su pensamiento. Ese hecho explica que todo ser humano tiene la habilidad de controlar su propia mente por completo, y con ese control es evidente que cada persona puede administrar o cerrar su mente únicamente a pensamientos de su propia elección.

La indecisión, es un estado mental, que elimina la confianza en sí mismo, se acaba el entusiasmo y conduce a la incertidumbre del propósito y reduce la fuerza de voluntad a la nada

e invita al fracaso en toda forma concebible. La duda es inseguridad, que debilita la capacidad de pensar y tomar decisiones. Expresada generalmente por medio de justificaciones y excusas diseñadas para encubrirse los propios errores o fracasos. El temor a la crítica priva al hombre de su iniciativa, destruye su poder de imaginación, le quita la confianza en sí mismo. Los padres hacen un daño irreparable a sus hijos cuando los critican. El temor a la enfermedad, nos lleva a la autosugestión negativa, que se dedica a buscar y esperar que nos vayamos a enfermar de algo y termina sucediendo. En medio de esta pandemia podemos enfermarnos física o mentalmente de coronavirus por la obsesión de pensar día y noche que nos vamos a contagiar del virus y nos autosugestionamos.

La vejez y la muerte son condiciones inevitables de la vida. Por ley natural envejecemos y morimos. Una persona ocupada en raras ocasiones dispone tiempo para pensar en la muerte; la muerte es parte de la vida, todo lo que nace muere. La muerte no es una opción sino una condición. La muerte para el cristiano es un nuevo nacimiento a la vida eterna con Dios. (S. Jn.11,17-27).

Como protegernos de las influencias negativas, tanto si son de su propia producción como si son el resultado de las actividades de ciertas personas negativas que le rodean, debe

reconocer que usted tiene un poder de voluntad y utilizarlo constantemente hasta que logre construir un muro de inmunidad en su propia mente contra esas influencias negativas. Sin duda la debilidad mas comun en todos los seres humanos es la costumbre de abrir sus mentes a la influencia negativa de otras personas. esta debilidad es tanto mas nociva en cuanto que la mayoría de la gente no se da cuenta de que han sido maldecidos con ella, y muchos de aquellos que la reconocen descuidan el mal, o se niegan a corregirlo hasta que se convierte en una mal habito cotidiano.

No existe protección legal contra aquellos que, ya sea a propósito o por ignorancia, envenenan las mentes de los demás mediante las mentiras, la sugestión negativa, la xenofobia, los chismes, supersticiones y el fundamentalismo (fanatismos). Esta forma de destrucción debería ser penable y con duros castigos legales, porque pueden destruir y desgraciar la vida de naciones enteras, difundir el odio, las divisiones y la violencia. Hombres con mentes negativas que convencen a mucha gente a pensar y actuar conforme ellos dicen. Afortunadamente hay muchos hombres y mujeres que se negaron a dejarse influenciar de mentes negativas que pretendían vencerlas de que no es posible que el mundo cambie para bien de todos.

La historia de la humanidad está llena de ejemplos de personas que con mente negativa le dijeron a un San Francisco de Asís, que era imposible restaurar o hacer cambios en la Iglesia, sin embargo San Francisco se decidió hacerla contra todos los pronósticos. Muchos hombres que han sido inventores como Thomas Edison, le dijeron que no podía construir una maquina que registrará y reproducirá la voz humana, porque nunca antes nadie lo ha hecho, Edison no se creyó y lo pudo lograr. Personas con mentalidad negativa se burlaron de Mahome Gandhi, de Martin Luther King, de Nelson Mandela, que su lucha por la dignidad y los derechos humanos era algo imposible de lograr, sin embargo decidieron luchar por un ideal y lo lograron. Usted, también propóngase tener control de sus pensamientos, de su fe y confianza en Dios y vera las maravillas que Dios puede hacer en su vida y a través de usted en la vida de muchas personas. Para Dios nada es imposible y con Dios todo es posible. Que el resultado de esta Cuaresma sea que seamos mejores personas y hagamos cosas buenas! que el camino de la Cuaresma nos conduzca a la Pascua. A dar el paso de los miedos a la confianza en Dios y en su amor misericordioso. Usted, decide!

# The Seven Basic Fears To Overcome

On this Lenten journey, take an inventory of yourself and see what fears invade your thoughts. Start by identifying them and analyze how you can eliminate from your mind the seven basic fears: indecision, doubt, fear of criticism, illness, negative influences, old age and death. These seven terrible fears are actually related, wherever there is one of them, you can be sure that the other six are near. Thinking and believing that our minds are under control sounds rather like science fiction, like nano-chips implanted from spies by a conspiracy of enemy governments... Yet there is a real sense in which what we concentrate our thinking on will determine what and who “controls our mind.” When we focus on our fears, responsibilities, obligations, and problems, we allow our thinking to be controlled by anxiety and worries. But when we allow God’s Holy Spirit to control our minds we experience life, harmony and peace, not worry and doubt. God has everything under control and we must trust Him completely, no matter what happens, because He is kind and faithful to all.

This Lenten season gives us the opportunity to focus our attention on the cause and solution for the seven basic fears. Before you can dominate an ene-

my you must know its name, habits and the place where they reside. These seven basic fears, and every human being suffers at one time or another, either due to the presence of one of them or a combination of them. We would be very fortunate if we did not suffer from any of the seven. Fears are nothing more than states of mind, and these states of each one’s mental thinking are subject to control and decision. The human being cannot -create anything that has not been conceived first in the mind. This fact emphasizes that each human being has the ability to control his own mind completely, and with that control it is evident that each person can either allow or close his mind to thoughts of his/her own choosing.

Indecision is a state of mind which eliminates self-confidence, undermines enthusiasm and leads to uncertainty of purpose, and reduces willpower to nothing and invites failure in every conceivable way. Doubt is insecurity, which weakens the ability to think and make decisions. The most common result of Doubt is the propensity to open one’s mind to negative influences from others; this weakness becomes more harmful when we are not aware that we have succumbed to it,

and even when aware dismiss it or fail to correct it until it becomes a daily habit.. The fear of criticism deprives man of his initiative, destroys his power of imagination, takes away his self-confidence. Parents do irreparable harm to their children when they criticize them. The fear of illness leads us to negative imagination, which leads to finding and waiting for some illness to befall us until it actually happens.. In the midst of this pandemic we can make ourselves physically or mentally ill by obsessively thinking day and night that we are going to get the virus ... Old age and death are unavoidable conditions of life. By natural law we grow old and die. A busy person rarely has time to think about death; death is a part of life, everything that is born dies. Death is not an option but a condition. Death for the Christian is a new birth to eternal life with God. Christ said: “I am the Resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, even if he dies will live, and he who lives and believes in me will never die “(Jn. 11, 17-27).

There is no legal protection against those who either on purpose or through ignorance control the minds of others through lies, negative suggestion, xenophobia, gossip, superstitions and fundamental-

ism (fanaticism). This form of destruction should be punishable with harsh legal penalties, because they can destroy and cause misfortune in the lives of entire nations, spreading hatred, divisions and violence. There are men with negative minds that convince many people to think and act as they say. Fortunately, there are many other men and women who refuse to be influenced by negative minds that try to convince them that it is not possible for the world to change for the good of all.

How can we cure or heal these seven basic fears that ruin our lives and cause so much hardship and suffering in our life? One of the main things is that you must believe that you have absolute control over your thoughts. It reflects the divine nature of man. This divine prerogative is the only means that you have to control your destiny. If you cannot control your mind, you can be only sure way you have to control your destiny. If you do not control your mind and thoughts, you can be sure that you will not control anything else. Your mind is your spiritual possession! Protect and use it with care. That’s why God gave it to us!

The history of humanity is filled with examples of people with negative minds.

Saint Francis of Assisi was told that it was impossible to restore or make changes in the Church; however Saint Francis decided to do it against all the predictions. Many men who have been inventors, like Thomas Edison, who was told that he could not build a machine that could record and reproduce the human voice, because it had never been done before. Edison did not believe this negativity and went on to succeed. Negative minded people mocked Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, because of their quest to achieve dignity and human rights. Some believed this was something impossible to achieve, however they decided to fight for an ideal and they achieved it. You too, can also resolve to take control of your thoughts, your faith and your trust in God and you will see the wonders that God can create in your life and, through you, in the lives of many people. For God nothing is impossible and with God everything is possible. May the result of this Lent help us to become better human beings and bring us to a joyous Easter, turning over our fears to God Almighty and His infinite mercy. You decide!!



# Foundation Launches 2021 Catholic Ministry Appeal

By Natalie Eckburg  
*Ministry Appeal Coordinator*

The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso has launched the 2021 Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal last month with the goal of raising \$1.9 million by the end of the calendar year.

The Catholic Ministry Appeal, an annual diocesan-wide fundraising campaign, invites Catholics from across the region to support the mission and ministries of the Diocese of El Paso. This year’s theme is Love Builds Hope, inspired by the call to love God and one another.

The 2020 Appeal raised \$1,958,948 – three percent more than its \$1.9 million goal. The gifts provided through this effort fund vital financial support for 15 diocesan ministries, including those providing crucial outreach in the areas of ministerial, community and pastoral services, along with Catholic education, spiritual formation and evangelization.

Earlier this year, Bishop Mark J. Seitz reached out to those who have donated in the past, asking that they — in these especially difficult times — be as generous as they possibly can be once again this year to support the ministries that support the community.

Thus far, the 2021 Appeal has already generated \$542,014 in



pledges from 1,970 donors – 29 percent towards goal.

“Even during this unprecedented time, I am proud to say that the charitable work of the Church — the mission that Jesus has entrusted to us — continues every day throughout the Diocese of El Paso,” said Bishop Seitz. “The needs of our brothers and sisters have increased, and thus we are all called to action now more than ever. Our com-

passion is an expression of faith and a proclamation of hope.”

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal activities occurred virtually in 2020. It is expected that many of the 2021 activities also will be conducted in a socially distant manner – utilizing tools such as virtual platforms – to execute the campaign. Events such as the Kick-off and the Pew Com-

mitment Weekends have been pushed back to March and April in response to the public health crisis.

Despite these challenges, Chief Operating Officer for the Catholic Foundation Linda Caro is confident the campaign will be a success. “I’m sure that in the weeks and months ahead, the parishioners in the Diocese of El Paso will once again show their generosity by supporting

the 2021 Appeal,” she said. “With the continued support of our Catholic community, the work of the Church will not just continue – it will flourish. In one way or another, every Catholic in the Diocese benefits from the Appeal – from Baptism into the Catholic faith to youth preparing for holy communion or confirmation, from couples participating in marriage retreats to having a trained counselor during a time of family crisis. Even by receiving a newly ordained priest or deacon at your parish; it is all made possible because of the generosity of donors.”

“The Catholic Foundation is also in need of volunteers who will help coordinate efforts at the individual parish levels,” said Caro. Training is offered to all volunteers, whose duties range from communication with Appeal staff and parish teams, provides updates to the parish and more.

“These parish leaders are absolutely essential to our success,” she said. “We can’t do the work of the Annual Appeal without these individuals.”

For more information, or to donate, go to: <https://www.elpasodiocesefoundation.org/donate-to-a-fund/progress-2021> or call Natalie Eckberg at (915) 872-8412.

## La Fundación Inicia El Campaña Del Los Ministerios Católicos

Por Natalie Eckburg  
*Campania de Ministerios*

La Fundación Católica para la Diócesis de El Paso lanzó el mes pasado la Campaña Católica Para Los Ministerios: Progreso 2021 con el objetivo de recaudar \$ 1.9 millones para finales del año civil.

La Campaña Católica Para Los Ministerios, una campaña anual de recaudación de fondos a nivel diocesano, invita a los católicos de toda la región a apoyar la misión y los ministerios de la Diócesis de El Paso. El tema de este año es El Amor Construye Esperanza, inspirado en el llamado a amar a Dios y a los demás.

La campaña del 2020 recaudó \$ 1,958,948, un tres por ciento

más que su objetivo de \$ 1,9 millones. Las donaciones realizadas a través de este esfuerzo significan un apoyo financiero vital para 15 ministerios diocesanos, incluyendo los que brindan una ayuda crucial en las áreas de servicios comunitarios y pastorales, junto con los ministerios de educación católica, formación espiritual y evangelización.

A principios de este año, el Obispo Mark J. Seitz se dirigió a aquellos que han donado en el pasado, pidiéndoles que, en estos tiempos especialmente difíciles, sean lo más generosos posible una vez más este año para apoyar a los ministerios que apoyan a la comunidad.

Hasta ahora, la Campaña de 2021 ya ha generado \$ 542,014

en promesas de 1,970 donantes, un 29 por ciento de la meta.

“Incluso durante este tiempo sin precedentes, me enorgullece decir que la obra caritativa de la Iglesia, la misión que Jesús nos ha confiado, continúa todos los días en toda la Diócesis de El Paso”, dijo el obispo Seitz. “Las necesidades de nuestros hermanos y hermanas han aumentado, por lo que todos estamos llamados a actuar ahora más que nunca. Nuestra compasión es una expresión de fe y una proclamación de esperanza”.

En respuesta a la pandemia COVID-19, muchas de las actividades de Progreso: Campaña Católica Para Los Ministerios se llevaron a cabo de manera virtual en 2020. Se espera que muchas

de las actividades de 2021 también se realicen conservando la distancia social, utilizando herramientas como plataformas virtuales, para ejecutar la campaña. Eventos como el Arranque (Kick-off) y los Fines de Semana de Compromiso desde la Iglesia (Pew Commitment Weekends) se han pospuesto para marzo y abril en respuesta a la crisis de salud pública.

A pesar de estos desafíos, la directora de operaciones de la Fundación Católica, Linda Caro, confía en que la campaña será un éxito.

“Estoy segura de que en las próximas semanas y meses, los feligreses de la Diócesis de El Paso volverán a mostrar su generosidad al apoyar la Cam-

paña 2021”, dijo. “Con el apoyo continuo de nuestra comunidad católica, el trabajo de la Iglesia no solo continuará sino que prosperará. De una forma u otra, todos los católicos de la Diócesis se benefician de la Campaña: desde el bautismo en la fe católica hasta los jóvenes que se preparan para la sagrada comunión o la confirmación, desde las parejas que participan en retiros matrimoniales hasta tener un consejero capacitado durante un momento de crisis familiar. Incluso recibiendo un sacerdote o diácono recién ordenado en su parroquia; todo es posible gracias a la generosidad de los donantes”.



# LOVE BUILDS HOPE

**GOAL: 1.9 MILLION**

**30% PLEDGED**





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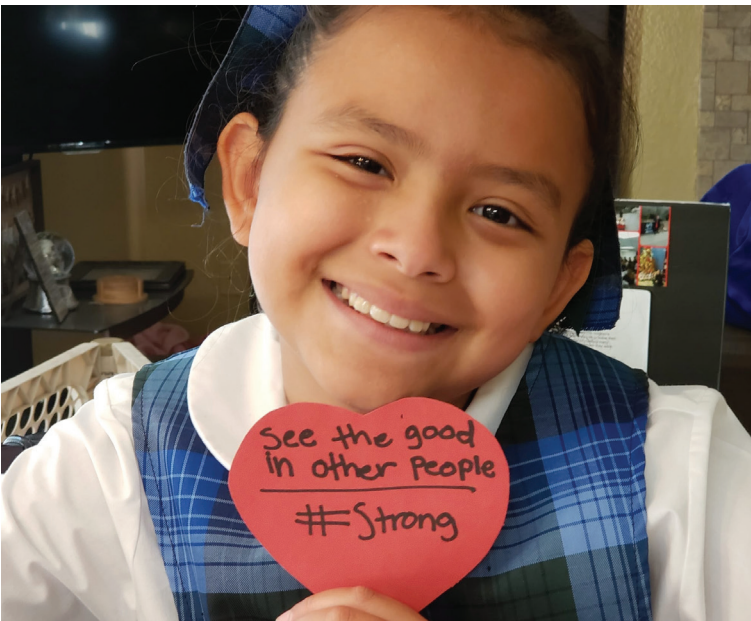


# Kaylee Castillo, Discovering the Needs of Others

By **Karina Sandoval**  
*Stewardship Coordinator*

Kaylee Castillo, is a remarkable 6th grader at St. Raphael Catholic School, who was inspired by the example of Saint Teresa of Calcutta to help the poor in our community. Her big heart inspires others to always do good in every situation.

One of the many gifts of attending Catholic Schools is the opportunity to learn about the saints. When Kaylee Castillo was asked to research a saint for All Saint’s day as a 2nd grader in 2016, she chose Mother Teresa of Calcutta because she knew she was a brave and courageous woman who helped the poor and the sick. It was while she was working on this homework assignment, that El Paso became a city of refuge for many immigrants. Inspired by the example of Mother Teresa, Kaylee thought about the suffering of the immigrant children and how they probably felt scared and lonely. Kaylee did not want toys for Christmas, she wanted to help other children instead. She shared her concerns with her parents and together they came up with the idea to give each child traveling with immigrants



Kaylee Castillo, is a remarkable 6th grader at St. Raphael Catholic School, who was inspired by the example of Saint Teresa of Calcutta to help the poor in our community. *Photo Courtesy Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso*

a teddy bear. Kaylee loves teddy bears and she knew the bears would provide comfort during a time of uncertainty in a new and foreign environment. Family and friends supported Kaylee’s desire to provide children with a warm embrace and her “Bear-a-thon” was born. She

bought candy with her allowance and in two weeks raised enough money to purchase 100 teddy bears. She used the donations from family and friends to purchase 78 more bears. Jared Jewelers heard her story on KVIA News and donated 100 more teddy bears. Kaylee began her

endeavor at St. Mark Catholic Church with the support of Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas, who serves as pastor. He gave her the opportunity to personally give the teddy bears to the immigrant children as they began arriving at the parish. The Bear-a-thon became so popular that it was extended to the Child Crisis Center, area hospitals, the Center Against Sexual and Family Violence, and Dame la Mano Family Crisis Center in the Segundo Barrio.

Kaylee’s Bear-a-thon continues to this day—she sells her arts and crafts to raise money to buy more bears—but Kaylee is adapting to the needs of the world as the Vatican Council II asks of every Catholic. Kaylee’s latest focus is on police officers. She sent 1,000 cards to El Paso Police officers with the help of her family and friends to provide encouragement during a time when they were being spoken about negatively. In exchange, Kaylee received a surprise parade at her home. Many officers participated to thank Kaylee for her generous gesture.

Kaylee has been invited to give motivational speeches at the Ysleta Independent School District and she invites children and adults to strive to always do

good in any situation. She says she often thinks, What Would Jesus Do?

Kaylee hopes to become a Neurologist and help children with Down Syndrome and Autism to lead better lives. Her message to other kids is that prayer and gratitude are what have helped her become closer to God. “Pray more, thank God for all the things that you have, stop complaining about the things that you don’t have. God does so much for us but we don’t even realize it.”

Kaylee Castillo is 11 years old and attends St. Raphael Catholic School. She’s the daughter of Jose and Rosie Castillo.

“I think this is the wonderful tenderness of a woman’s heart: to be aware of the suffering of others and to try to spare them that suffering, as Mary did. Do you and I have that same tenderness in our hearts? Do we have Mary’s eyes for discovering the needs of others?” — Mother Teresa

For more information about stewardship or how you can use your time and talent to serve God, please contact Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator at (915) 872-8412 or at [ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org)

## Kaylee Castillo, Descubriendo las Necesidades de los Demás

Por **Karina Sandoval**  
*Stewardship Coordinator*

Kaylee Castillo, una niña ejemplar que asiste el 6to grado de la escuela Católica San Rafael, fue inspirada por el ejemplo de la Madre Teresa de Calcuta para ayudar a los pobres de nuestra comunidad. Su gran corazón inspira a otros a hacer el bien siempre en cualquier situación. Una de las grandes bendiciones de asistir a escuelas Católicas, es la oportunidad de aprender sobre la vida de los santos. Cuando a Kaylee Castillo le pidieron en el segundo grado investigar sobre la vida de los santos, ella eligió a la Madre Teresa de Calcuta, porque sabía que la Madre Teresa era una mujer valiente que ayudó a los pobres y enfermos. Mientras que Kaylee trabajaba en este proyecto, la ciudad de El Paso,

Texas se convirtió en un refugio para muchos inmigrantes. Kaylee, inspirada por el ejemplo de la Madre Teresa, pensó en los inmigrantes menores de edad que probablemente se estarían sintiendo solos y asustados. Kaylee prefirió ayudar a otros niños, en vez de recibir regalos de Navidad. Le compartió a sus papas su deseo y juntos decidieron darle a los inmigrantes menores de edad un osito de peluche. Kaylee sabía que los ositos de peluche podrían brindar consuelo en tiempos de incertidumbre. Familiares y amigos apoyaron el deseo de Kaylee y nació el proyecto “Bear-a-thon.” Kaylee compro dulces con su “domingo” y en dos semanas recaudó el dinero para comprar 100 ositos de peluche, uso también las donaciones de sus familiares y amigos y compro 78 ositos mas. La joyería Jared se entero de los

deseos de Kaylee en el noticiero KVIA y donó 100 ositos mas. Kaylee comenzó su gran proyecto en la Iglesia Católica de San Marcos con el apoyo del Monseñor Arturo Bañuelas, quien sirve como Pastor de la Iglesia. Monseñor Bañuelas le dio la oportunidad de dar los ositos de peluche a inmigrantes menores de edad mientras ellos bajaban de los camiones. El Bear-a-thon se hizo tan conocido que fue extendido al Centro de Crisis de Niños, Violencia Domestica y Abuso Sexual, Centro Dame la Mano en El Segundo Barrio y hospitales locales. El Bear-a-thon de Kaylee continua hasta este día. Para comprar mas ositos de peluche Kaylee vende manualidades hechas por si misma. Tal como lo pide el Concilio Vaticano II a todos los católicos, Kaylee continua adaptándose a las necesidades del mundo.

El proyecto mas reciente de Kaylee: animar a los policías de esta ciudad. Con la ayuda de sus familiares y amigos mando 1,000 tarjetas a los policías de El Paso, estas tarjetas contenían mensajes de apoyo y apreciación durante el tiempo en que los policías eran relacionados negativamente. En agradecimiento de parte de los policías de El Paso, Kaylee recibió un desfile sorpresa afuera de su casa. Varios policías dieron gracias a Kaylee por su generoso gesto. Kaylee ha sido invitada a dar discursos motivacionales al Distrito Independiente de Isleta, invita a los jóvenes y adultos a hacer el bien siempre en cualquier situación. Ella menciona, que piensa frecuentemente, “¿que haría Jesús en mi lugar?” Kaylee espera convertirse en Médico Neurocirujano para ayudar a niños con Síndrome de Down y

Autismo. El mensaje de Kaylee para todos los niños es que la oración y el agradecimiento son los elementos que la han ayudado a acercarse a Dios. “Ora, agradece a Dios por todas las cosas que tienes, deja de quejarte por las que no tienes. Dios hace mucho por nosotros, pero no lo vemos.” Kaylee Castillo tiene 11 años y asiste a la escuela Católica de San Rafael. Es hija de José y Rosie Castillo. “Creo que esta es la maravillosa ternura del corazón de una mujer: ser consiente del sufrimiento de los demás y tratar de evitarles ese sufrimiento, como lo hizo María. ¿Tu y yo tenemos esa ternura en nuestros corazones? ¿Tenemos los ojos de María para descubrir las necesidades de los demás?” — Madre Teresa.

## Second Collection: Collection for Catholic Relief Services

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, March 13 and Sunday March 14, 2021 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 if immigrants, and refugees.



# Lots to Love About Supporting Seminarians

By Sofia Larkin  
Major Gifts Officer

Your donations to the Seminarian Education Endowment Fund are making great things possible for men studying to become priests, canon lawyers, and the future leadership for the Diocese of El Paso. Fathers Cong Vo and Iván Montelongo, ordained to the priesthood in 2017 and 2020, respectively, are currently studying canon law.

We have 19 seminarians in formation. Alfonso Coronado Sánchez and Wilbert Colas, who were ordained to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate on August 15, 2020, will be ordained to the priesthood in 2021; five men are set to be ordained transitional deacons this year.

Angel Tarango, Angel Aguilar, Astry Deraly, Edroud Jean, Loyd Divinagracia, and José William Arevalo are on their pastoral year serving parishes around the Diocese of El Paso. They all bring energy to the Church, especially during the pandemic when technology and creativity have been



Cesar García, 3rd Year Theology, Assumption Seminary, San Antonio. *Photo Courtesy of Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso.*

vital to evangelization.  
Congratulations to César García, a seminarian for the

Diocese of El Paso at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, who received his candidacy for

Holy Orders during the celebration of Mass on February 13. Candidacy is a rite which takes

place during seminary formation, by which the Church recognizes the seminarian as worthy of being ordained; they become a “candidate” for ordination to the priesthood.

One of our greatest areas of focus is the Seminarian Education Endowment Fund, 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, and the responsibility of providing priests for the Diocese of El Paso, both spiritually and financially, belongs to all of us. Please continue to pray with and for our seminarians.

*For more information, to discuss the giving that best suits you and your family, and to notify the Catholic Foundation of your plans, please contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:slarkin@elpasodiocese.org) or 915.433.2003.*

# Alumnus Pledges \$1.78 Million to Cathedral High School

By Sofia Larkin  
Major Gifts Officer

Tim Ackert, a 1962 graduate of Cathedral High School, and his wife, Norma, have pledged \$1.78 million to Cathedral High School. It is the second largest single gift made to the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso.

Tim said, “I made my bequest to Cathedral High School because I very much believe in the mission of providing resources to those who have not had the opportunities that I had growing up. When we were in El Paso for my 50th and saw the success rate of the Cathedral graduates, I was floored and decided to do what I could to help future students with needs become successful.”

Tim met Norma in 1972 and they got married the following year. He said luck brought them together but that when you choose your life partner, it works out because of much more than love and luck. He attributes compassion, forgiveness, support, patience, a little bit of craziness, enthusiasm, common interests and much more with getting them through 21 moves, too many adventures to count, and raising two children. They



Tim Ackert, a 1962 graduate of Cathedral High School, and his wife, Norma, have pledged \$1.78 million to Cathedral High School. It is the second largest single gift made to the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso. *Photo Courtesy of Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso.*

are now retired and enjoying a life of leisure in Florida that includes five grandchildren and one French Bulldog.

One of seven children, Tim was a “military brat” and when his father was transferred to Ft. Bliss, he enrolled Tim at Cathedral for his last two years of high school. Tim tried college but says he bombed out and joined the military. He credits

his three years in the Army with motivating him to get a good education and good jobs. One of Tim’s favorite sayings is, “They are able because they think they are able!” He discovered it after attending his 50th high school reunion and it reminded him of one of the lessons he learned when he left “La Cate”.

Tim attended Florida Technological University, now the


University of Central Florida, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and went on to get a Master’s Degree in Building Construction at The University of Florida. He spent more than 40 years in project and construction-management, at one point serving as operations manager for URS Corporation, the country’s largest engineering design firm. He worked on a new

NBA Arena, a new MLB baseball stadium, the renovation of a major football stadium, multiple performing arts facilities, oil pipelines, refineries, gas plants, and offshore oil facilities in many faraway places including Saudi Arabia, Russia, Sumatra, Brazil, Norway, Korea, and Oman.

Tim credits his Dad and Cathedral for being his greatest influences and says his mother taught him to have an open mind.

Cathedral High School was founded in 1925 to offer a rigorous academic and value-based education for young men in the region. Although the school is owned and administered by the Diocese of El Paso, the Christian Brothers, a Catholic religious teaching congregation founded by Saint Jean-Baptiste de la Salle, have been involved in the school since its foundation. Cathedral High Schools turns 100 in 2025.

*For more information, to discuss the giving that best suits you and your family, and to notify the Catholic Foundation of your plans, please contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:slarkin@elpasodiocese.org) or 915.433.2003.*



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