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THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

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Archbishop Wester Of Santa Fe Makes \$65k Gift To Border Fund

El Paso, TX - The Most Rev. John C. Wester, the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in New Mexico, has made a contribution of \$65,000 to the Border Refugee Assistance Fund to support the needs of vulnerable people on the move at the US-Mexico border.

The Border Refugee Assistance Fund is a joint initiative of the Diocese of El Paso, and the Hope Border Institute to provide for the emergency humanitarian needs of migrants arriving to the US-Mexico border.

“With hearts full of faith, we can meet the challenges of forced migration and transform this moment into a time of greater cooperation across borders and deeper love for our neighbors in need,” said Bishop Seitz. “I am so grateful to Archbishop Wester and the people of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe for putting their faith into action by generously supporting the Border Refugee Assistance Fund.”

In addition to making a gift, Archbishop Wester and Bishop Seitz joined the Hope Border Institute in visiting refugees in Ciudad Juárez for a series of listening sessions to better understand the needs of those who migrate, including persons returned under Title 42 and the recently re-instituted Migrant Protection Protocols.

“The Catholic Church in the United States and Mexico has repeatedly called for an end to policies that turn our neighbors back to danger,” said Archbishop Wester. “At a time when it’s clearer than ever that only global solidarity can resolve our world’s challenges, the work being done on behalf of vulnerable people on the move at the border gives me a reason to hope.”

To date, the Border Refugee Assistance Fund has delivered over \$300,000 in direct aid to vulnerable migrants in Ciudad Juárez, including emergency medical support, services for pregnant women and children, counseling, food and shelter.

Those interested in supporting the work of the Fund can visit www.hopeborder.org. The Hope Border Institute (HOPE) brings the perspective of Catholic social teaching to bear on the realities unique to our US-Mexico border region. Through a robust program of research and policy work, leadership development and action, we work to build justice and deepen solidarity across the borderlands.



Archbishop John C. Wester, Bishop Mark J. Seitz and Bishop José Guadalupe Torres Campos at the end of a listening session to better understand the needs of those who migrate. *Photo by Fernie Cenicerros*

El Arzobispo Wester De Santa Fe Hace Una Donación Para La Frontera

El Paso, TX - El Reverendo John C. Wester, Arzobispo de la Arquidiócesis de Santa Fe en Nuevo México, ha hecho una contribución de 65.000 dólares al Fondo de Asistencia a los Refugiados de la Frontera para apoyar las necesidades de las personas vulnerables que se desplazan en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México.

El Fondo de Asistencia a los Refugiados de la Frontera es una iniciativa conjunta del la Diócesis de El Paso y el Instituto Fronterizo Esperanza para atender las necesidades humanitarias de emergencia de los migrantes que llegan a la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos.

“Con los corazones llenos de fe, podemos hacer frente a los

desafíos de la migración forzada y transformar este momento en un tiempo de mayor cooperación a través de las fronteras y un amor más profundo por nuestros vecinos necesitados”, dijo el Obispo Seitz. “Estoy muy agradecido con el Arzobispo Wester y el pueblo de la Arquidiócesis de Santa Fe por poner su fe en acción al apoyar generosamente el Fondo de Asistencia a los Refugiados de la Frontera”.

Además de hacer un donativo, el Arzobispo Wester y el Obispo Seitz se unieron al Instituto Fronterizo Hope para visitar a los refugiados en Ciudad Juárez en una serie de sesiones de escucha para entender mejor las necesidades de los que emigran, incluyendo a las personas devueltas

bajo el Title 42 y los recientemente reinstituidos Protocolos de Protección al Migrante.

“La Iglesia Católica en Estados Unidos y México ha pedido repetidamente que se ponga fin a las políticas que devuelven a nuestros vecinos al peligro”, dijo el Arzobispo Wester. “En un momento en que está más claro que nunca que sólo la solidaridad global puede resolver los desafíos de nuestro mundo, el trabajo que se está haciendo en nombre de las personas vulnerables en movimiento en la frontera me da una razón para la esperanza.”

Hasta la fecha, el Fondo de Ayuda a los Refugiados de la Frontera ha entregado más de 300.000 dólares en ayuda directa

a los migrantes vulnerables en Ciudad Juárez, incluyendo apoyo médico de emergencia, servicios para mujeres embarazadas y niños, asesoramiento, alimentos y refugio.

Los interesados en apoyar la labor del Fondo pueden visitar www.hopeborder.org. El Hope Border Institute (HOPE) aporta la perspectiva de la doctrina social católica a las realidades propias de la región fronteriza entre México y Estados Unidos. A través de un sólido programa de investigación y trabajo político, desarrollo de liderazgo y acción, trabajamos para construir la justicia y profundizar la solidaridad a través de las tierras fronterizas.

A Sign of God's Love

A year ago, March 1, My wife and I were going through what seemed like one of the most challenging times in our whole lives. My wife was 29 weeks pregnant with our second daughter, Evie. Chrissy had been hospitalized for the duration of her pregnancy for preeclampsia, and we hoped that we could hang on to hope and not deliver until Evie and my wife had been closer to 34 weeks along.

As many of you may know, Evie had other plans! She took her place in our family on March 25, 2021. She spent some time in the NICU to help her finish up her breathing develop-



Fernie Cenicerros

ment. Many of our faithful readers know this story, of course. However, I did want to take this time to share with you a couple of my insights into parenting a

second baby over the last year. The first thing I must share with you all is it's incredible to me how quickly we see what kind of personality a baby will have. The NICU nurses were the first to point out how laid back our little Evie was. One NICU nurse said she was a quiet fighter. She seldom fussed. One year later, I can very much confirm that our little Evie is very much a quiet little fighter. She had a lot of catch-up to do, but she's always done it with a smile. In this, Evie has helped me realize that even though things seem hard, it's never too hard to smile and know that whatever problem I have, it too shall pass.

Secondly, I didn't think it was possible, but a person can love someone more than what seems like life itself. And even more surprising is how equally but distinctly you can love your kids. When I had Annie, my firstborn, I wasn't sure I would ever feel that kind of specific love for another human being. But along came Evie, and it was the same thing. When I was growing up, I had a very self-centered view of how my parents loved me and constantly compared their love to how they loved my older brother. My two kids have most certainly dispelled that internal myth. You can love your children without

any conditions very equally. This very much has been tested at 3 am when it's my turn to bottle feed.

So with that being said, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish my little Evie a very happy 1st birthday. My wife and I decided that we would make her first birthday party a rainbow theme with the intention that not only does Evie bring us joy in many colors, just like God's promise to Noah, that the rainbow would always be a sign of His love. Despite the storm, His love would always prevail. Evie is very much a true embodiment of God's love and promise to us.

Un Signo Del Amor De Dios

Hace un año, el 1 de marzo, mi esposa y yo estábamos pasando por lo que parecía uno de los momentos más difíciles de toda nuestra vida. Mi mujer estaba embarazada de 29 semanas de nuestra segunda hija, Evie. Chrissy había sido hospitalizada durante todo el embarazo por preeclampsia, y esperábamos poder aferrarnos a la esperanza y no dar a luz hasta que Evie y mi mujer estuvieran más cerca de las 34 semanas.

Como muchos de ustedes saben, Evie tenía otros planes. Llegó a nuestra familia el 25 de marzo de 2021. Pasó un tiempo en la UCIN para ayudarla a terminar su desarrollo respiratorio. Muchos de nuestros fieles lectores conocen esta historia, por supuesto. Sin embargo, quería aprovechar este momento para compartir con ustedes un par de mis reflexiones sobre la crianza de un segundo bebé en el último año.



Mi hija Evie poco antes de su primer cumpleaños hace un par de días. Foto por Fernie Cenicerros. Mija cumple su primer cumpleaños el día del 25 de Marzo. *Foto por Fernie Cenicerros*

Lo primero que debo compartir con todos vosotros es que me resulta increíble lo rápido que vemos el tipo de personalidad que tendrá un bebé. Las enfermeras de la UCIN fueron las primeras en señalar lo relajada que era nuestra pequeña Evie.

Una enfermera de la UCIN dijo que era una luchadora tranquila. Rara vez se quejaba. Un año después, puedo confirmar que nuestra pequeña Evie es una luchadora tranquila. Ha tenido

que ponerse al día, pero siempre lo ha hecho con una sonrisa. En este sentido, Evie me ha ayudado a darme cuenta de que, aunque las cosas parezcan difíciles, nunca es demasiado difícil sonreír

y saber que cualquier problema que tenga, también pasará.

En segundo lugar, no creía que fuera posible, pero una persona puede amar a alguien más de lo que parece la vida misma. Y aún

más sorprendente es cómo se puede amar a los hijos de forma igual pero distinta. Cuando tuve a Annie, mi primogénita, no estaba segura de poder sentir ese tipo de amor específico por otro ser humano. Pero llegó Evie, y fue lo mismo. Cuando crecía, tenía una visión muy egocéntrica de cómo me querían mis padres y comparaba constantemente su amor con el de mi hermano mayor. Mis dos hijos han disipado sin duda ese mito interno. Se puede querer a los hijos sin condiciones muy por igual. Esto lo he comprobado a las 3 de la mañana cuando me toca dar el biberón.

Así que, dicho esto, me gustaría aprovechar esta oportunidad para desear a mi pequeña Evie un muy feliz primer cumpleaños. Mi esposa y yo decidimos que su primera fiesta de cumpleaños fuera con el tema del arco iris, con la intención de que no sólo Evie nos traiga alegría en muchos colores, sino que, al igual que la promesa de Dios a Noé, el arco iris sea siempre una señal de Su amor. A pesar de la tormenta, su amor siempre prevalecería. Evie es una verdadera encarnación del amor y la promesa de Dios para nosotros.

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Lent: A Time to Open Ourselves to God's Plan

Here we are entering March and in El Paso the signs of Spring will soon be all around us. I don't mean just the strong winds moving the dust around, but the renewal of life as temperatures warm up, rains water the earth and our plants come to life. This year Lent begins on the second of March with our celebration of Ash Wednesday. Interestingly, the word Lent is an old English word that means, "Spring".

God has some work he would like to do in us in these 40+ days! Lent isn't only about penance, although that is an essential element. It is a time to draw closer in prayer, reflection and service. God wants to free us from attachments, especially the sinful attachments, that would keep us from really entrusting ourselves to him, that prevent

us from allowing the Lord to unfold his plan for our lives.

Here is a story I came across that may be helpful:

Unfolding the Rosebud

A young, new priest was walking with an older, more seasoned priest in the garden one day and feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was inquiring of the older priest. The older priest walked up to a rosebush and handed the young priest a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals.

The young priest looked in disbelief at the older priest and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and for his ministry. Because of his high respect for the older priest, he proceeded to try to unfold the

rose, while keeping every petal intact. It wasn't long before he realized that the task was impossible. Noticing the younger priest's inability to unfold the rosebud while keeping it intact, the older priest began to recite the following poem.

UNFOLDING THE ROSEBUD

It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.
The secret of unfolding
flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so sweetly,
In my hands it will fade and die.
If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of GOD's design,
Then how can I think I have



Bishop Mark J. Seitz



wisdom To unfold this life of mine? So I'll trust in Him for His leading Each moment of every day. I will look to him for His guidance Each step of the pilgrim way. The pathway that lies before me, Only my Heavenly Father knows.	I'll trust Him to unfold the moments, Just as He unfolds the rose. This would be a wonderful Lent if we could arrive at Easter truly ready to trust God and fully cooperate as he unfolds His good plan for our lives. Have a Happy Lent!
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La Cuaresma: Un Tiempo Para Abrirnos Al Plan De Dios

Estamos entrando en marzo y en El Paso los signos de la primavera pronto estarán a nuestro alrededor. No me refiero sólo a los fuertes vientos que mueven el polvo, sino a la renovación de la vida a medida que las temperaturas se calientan, las lluvias riegan la tierra y nuestras plantas cobran vida. Este año la Cuaresma comienza el 2 de marzo con la celebración del Miércoles de Ceniza. Curiosamente, la palabra Cuaresma es una antigua palabra inglesa que significa "Primavera".

¡Dios tiene un trabajo que le gustaría hacer en nosotros en estos más de 40 días! La Cuaresma no es sólo una penitencia, aunque es un elemento esencial. Es un tiempo para acercarse en la oración, la reflexión y el servicio. Dios quiere liberarnos de los apegos, sobre todo de los apegos pecaminosos, que nos impiden confiarnos realmente a él, que nos impiden dejar que el Señor despliegue su plan para nuestras vidas.

He aquí una historia que he encontrado y que puede ser útil:

Desplegando el capullo de rosa

Un joven y nuevo sacerdote caminaba un día por el jardín con un sacerdote mayor y más experimentado, y sintiéndose un poco inseguro sobre lo que Dios tenía para él, le preguntó al sacerdote mayor. El sacerdote mayor se acercó a un rosal y le dio al joven sacerdote un capullo de rosa y le dijo que lo abriera sin arrancar ningún pétalo.

El joven sacerdote miró con incredulidad al anciano y trató

de entender qué podía tener que ver un capullo de rosa con su deseo de conocer la voluntad de Dios para su vida y su ministerio. Debido a su gran respeto por el anciano sacerdote, procedió a tratar de desdoblar la rosa, manteniendo todos los pétalos intactos. No tardó en darse cuenta de que la tarea era imposible. Al notar la incapacidad del sacerdote más joven para desdoblar el capullo de la rosa manteniéndolo intacto, el sacerdote mayor comenzó a recitar el siguiente poema.

DESPLEGANDO EL CAPULLO DE ROSA

Es sólo un pequeño capullo de rosa,
Una flor diseñada por Dios;
Pero no puedo desplegar los pétalos
Con estas torpes manos mías.
El secreto de desplegar las flores
No es conocido por alguien como yo.
Dios abre esta flor tan dulcemente,

En mis manos se desvanecerá y morirá.
Si no puedo desplegar un capullo de rosa,
Esta flor diseñada por Dios,
Entonces, ¿cómo puedo pensar que tengo sabiduría
Para desplegar esta vida mía?
Así que confiaré en Él para que me guíe
Cada momento de cada día.
Buscaré en Él Su guía
Cada paso del camino peregrino
El camino que está ante mí,

Sólo mi Padre Celestial lo conoce.
Confiaré en Él para desplegar los momentos, Así como Él despliega la rosa.

Esta sería una Cuaresma maravillosa si pudiéramos llegar a la Pascua realmente dispuestos a confiar en Dios y a cooperar plenamente mientras Él despliega su buen plan para nuestras vidas.
¡Que tengas una feliz Cuaresma!



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Annual Mass Of Atonement To Be Held In March

By Susan Martinez
Victim's Assistance Coordinator

Bishop Mark Seitz will celebrate the fifth annual Mass of Atonement and Hope on Sunday, March 27 at 3:00 pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Mass of Atonement and Hope was initially offered for all the victims of sexual abuse by clergy. It was an acknowledgement that in the past the Church's response to reports of sexual abuse by members of the clergy and other religious communities was often lacking, inappropriate, or nonexistent. Recognizing that the sexual abuse exists in all areas of society, Bishop Seitz has chosen to offer this mass for all victims of sexual abuse by any perpetrator.

It is hoped that the Mass of Atonement and Hope will be a source of healing for the victims and will demonstrate the Church's concern for their well-being. At times, experiencing sexual abuse may cause the victim to become separated from his/her faith in God and his Church. The Mass is a reminder to the victims that they have a place where they belong and where they can experience God's love and healing. All victims, family members,



Bishop Mark Seitz prays during the atonement mass at St. Pius X Parish in 2019. Bishop Seitz will celebrate the fifth annual Mass of Atonement and Hope on Sunday, March 27 at 3:00 pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral. *Photo by Fernie Cenicerros*

those who provide assistance and support to victims, and any others who feel that the issue of sexual abuse is of great importance are invited to attend the	Mass of Atonement and Hope. We hope to see you there. If you have been a victim of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy, please contact Susan	Martinez, Victims Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of El Paso, at 872-8465 If you wish to participate in ministry or as a volunteer in your	parish, please contact your Parish Safe Environment Coordinator or Diana Bulko, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of El Paso, at 872-8427.
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La Misa De Penitencia Se Celebrará En Marzo

Por Susan Martínez
Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas

El Obispo Mark Seitz celebrará la quinta Misa anual de Expiación y Esperanza el domingo 27 de marzo a las 3:00 pm en la Catedral de San Patricio. La Misa de Expiación y Esperanza se ofreció inicialmente para todas las víctimas de abuso sexual por parte del clero. Se trata de un reconocimiento

de que en el pasado la respuesta de la Iglesia a las denuncias de abusos sexuales por parte de miembros del clero y de otras comunidades religiosas fue a menudo escasa, inapropiada o inexistente. Reconociendo que los abusos sexuales existen en todos los ámbitos de la sociedad, el obispo Seitz ha decidido ofrecer esta misa por todas las víctimas de abusos sexuales por parte de cualquier perpetrador.

Se espera que la Misa de Expiación y Esperanza sea una fuente de sanación para las víctimas y demuestre la preocupación de la Iglesia por su bienestar. A veces, la experiencia del abuso sexual puede hacer que la víctima se separe de su fe en Dios y en su Iglesia. La misa es un recordatorio para las víctimas de que tienen un lugar al que pertenecen y donde pueden experimentar el amor y la curación de Dios.

Todas las víctimas, los miembros de la familia, los que proporcionan asistencia y apoyo a las víctimas, y cualquier otra persona que sienta que el tema de los abusos sexuales es de gran importancia, están invitados a asistir a la Misa de Expiación y Esperanza. Esperamos verles allí. Si usted ha sido víctima de abuso sexual por parte de un miembro del clero, por favor co-

muníquese con Susan Martínez, Coordinadora de Asistencia a las Víctimas de la Diócesis de El Paso, al 872-8465 Si desea participar en el ministerio o como voluntario en su parroquia, por favor, póngase en contacto con el Coordinador de Ambiente Seguro de su parroquia o con Diana Bulko, Coordinadora de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis de El Paso, en el 872-8427.




HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

Fr. German Alzate Agudelo	Mar 4
Fr. Juan Manuel Heredia Hernandez, OFM	Mar 4
Fr. Juan Victor Gamino Trejo, MNM	Mar 20
Fr. Michael L. Lewis	Mar 20
Fr. Kenneth J. Moody, MM	Mar 23
Fr. Apolinar Samboni	Mar 25
Fr. Wilson Cuevas	Mar 30
Fr. Mount Joseph Selvan Durai Raj, SJ	Mar 30

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Fr. Emanuel Alcazar	Mar 17, 1989
Fr. Roberto Alvarado	Mar 17, 1989




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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Diocese Reopens Temporary Migrant Shelter

By Christopher Velasquez
Staff Writer

As migrants and refugees from Latin America and beyond continue to arrive in El Paso, the faithful have stepped up to aid their brothers and sisters in need. Since the reopening of the migrant shelter at Martyrs Hall on January 3rd many migrants spanning various ages and nationalities have found temporary support on the grounds of the Diocese of El Paso as they await their next destination. The need to reopen the migrant shelter arose as the Annunciation House needed support to aid the increasing number of migrants and refugees.

The shelter works with local authorities and provides essential support to the migrants who have been vetted by border patrol and brought to the diocese for assistance on their journey. As migrants continue to arrive at the migrant shelter, the urgent need for more volunteers has arisen. “The vast majority are people that are running for their lives and looking for a safe place. They are often just here for 24-48 hours at the most. We need people who can help serve meals and register the migrants when they arrive, especially people in good health that have been vaccinated and who can do this safely,” said Bishop Mark Seitz. Precautions to ensure the safety of the migrants and volunteers remain at the forefront of



Since the reopening of the migrant shelter at Martyrs Hall on January 3rd many migrants spanning various ages and nationalities have found temporary support on the grounds of the Diocese of El Paso as they await their next destination. *Photo by Fernie Cenicerós*

the diocese’s efforts to provide support. “The first thing that we do when they arrive is have them tested for COVID, and the small number that tests positive end up going to a special place but not in the migrant shelter,” added Bishop Mark Seitz.

The donations that people make to the shelter provide significant support. Currently, the need for new underwear, socks, paper plates and bowls, spoons, and 33-gallon trash bags has become urgent. “We need volunteers in every step of the process,

and if we have a lot of people, we can make different teams, and those that are currently volunteering won’t have to come all the time. Volunteers can also specify how they would like to contribute,” said Marco Raposo, Director of the Diocesan Peace

and Justice Ministry. Those who would like to offer support for the migrants can contact the Diocesan Office of Peace and Justice at 915-872-8422 or email at mraposo@elpasodiocese.org

La Diócesis Reabre El Albergue Para Inmigrantes

Por Christopher Velasquez
Escritor del personal

A medida que los migrantes y refugiados de América Latina y más allá siguen llegando a El Paso, los fieles han dado un paso adelante para ayudar a sus hermanos y hermanas en necesidad. Desde la reapertura del albergue para migrantes en el Salón de los Mártires el 3 de enero, muchos migrantes de diversas edades y nacionalidades han encontrado apoyo temporal en los terrenos de la Diócesis de El Paso mientras esperan su próximo destino. La necesidad de reabrir el albergue para migrantes surgió porque la Casa de la Anunciación necesitaba apoyo para ayudar al creciente número de migrantes y refugiados. El refugio trabaja con las autoridades locales y proporciona un apoyo esencial a los migrantes que han sido investigados por la patrulla fronteriza y llevados a la diócesis para recibir asistencia en su viaje. A medida que los migrantes siguen llegando al refugio para migrantes, ha surgido la necesidad urgente de más voluntarios. “La gran mayoría son personas que huyen por su vida y buscan un lugar seguro. A menudo sólo están aquí durante 24-48 horas como máximo. Necesitamos personas que puedan ayudar a servir comidas y registrar a los migrantes cuando lleguen, especialmente personas

con buena salud que hayan sido vacunadas y que puedan hacerlo de forma segura”, dijo el obispo Mark Seitz. Las precauciones para garantizar la seguridad de los migrantes y de los voluntarios siguen siendo la prioridad de los esfuerzos de la diócesis para proporcionar apoyo. “Lo primero que hacemos cuando llegan es hacerles la prueba del COVID, y el pequeño número que da positivo acaba yendo a un lugar especial, pero no en el refugio para migrantes”, añadió el obispo Mark Seitz. Las donaciones que la gente hace al refugio suponen una ayuda importante. Actualmente, la necesidad de ropa interior nueva, calcetines, platos y cuencos de papel, cucharas y bolsas de basura de 33 galones se ha vuelto urgente. “Necesitamos voluntarios en cada paso del proceso, y si tenemos mucha gente, podemos hacer diferentes equipos, y los que actualmente son voluntarios no tendrán que venir siempre. Los voluntarios también pueden especificar cómo les gustaría contribuir”, dijo Marco Raposo, Director del Ministerio Diocesano de Paz y Justicia. Quienes quieran ofrecer su apoyo a los migrantes pueden ponerse en contacto con la Oficina Diocesana de Paz y Justicia en el 915-872-8422 o por correo electrónico en mraposo@elpasodiocese.org

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The Bus Ride

By Abigail Ray
Hope Border Institute

“Chalate, Chalate, Chalate!”
The bus drivers yelled for our attention to climb aboard to head out of the capital, San Salvador, and drive to the mountains of Chalatenango.

As a volunteer with the University of Central America in El Salvador in 2017, I traveled every Sunday to a small rural town in Chalatenango about five hours from the capital. Along the bus route, I became familiar with the landscape and towns I had heard about through stories of the Salvadoran civil war.

One place where I would stop and reflect each week during the bus ride was the city of Aguilaes. Aguilaes was the location of the home parish of Rutilio Grande, a Jesuit priest and co-worker of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Father Rutilio was killed by the Salvadoran government’s right wing death squads on March 12, 1977.

Although my time on the bus always seemed special to me at that moment, it has grown to be more impactful with the canonization of Oscar Romero and the recent beatification of Rutilio Grande.

Rutilio Grande was not a voice for the voiceless, but someone who created spaces for the poor to exercise their voice. As a Jesuit priest, he walked with the people and farmworkers of Aguilaes as they faced the

serious injustices of poverty and exploitation. He trained lay people to become pastoral agents and educated them in Scripture as well as organizing and land reform. He provided Salvadorans with the tools of justice.

This month, on March 24, we recognize the feast day of Saint Oscar Romero, who continues to be a symbol of hope and justice for Salvadorans but also people throughout the world moved by his solidarity with victims of injustice. Through his weekly broadcast sermons on public radio, Romero lifted the narratives of violence and suffering, condemning the government as the culprit of sin. His embodiment of the option for the poor, a bishop and a Christian totally identified with his people and their suffering, ultimately led to his martyrdom as well. His commitment to liberation rooted in the Gospel continues to inspire.

Sometimes, I rode the bus to the Cathedral in San Salvador. In the center of the capital city, it is the final resting place of Oscar Romero. Although the larger cathedral itself is spectacular, he rests in the basement of the building, in a smaller chapel dedicated to poor families during the time of the war.

During the celebration of Mass in the basement of the San Salvador Cathedral, I was able to pray next to the tomb of Oscar Romero. His presence in the chapel was not just a blessing, but an invitation to continue the



Rev. Rutilio Grande Garcia, S.J. was a Jesuit priest in El Salvador. He was assassinated in 1977, along with two other Salvadorans. He was the first priest assassinated before the civil war started and a close friend of Archbishop Óscar Romero. *Photo Courtesy of Hope Border Institute.*

work that the saints started.

The bus that took me through communities affected by the Salvadoran civil war not only reminded me of remembrance and history, it reminded me of action. How am I continuing to

emulate the actions of Christ and our martyrs in my own life?

By being raised to the altar, both Rutilio Grande and St. Oscar Romero are models of holiness for the global Church. In their lives and witness, we have

living models to imitate in our own work of justice.

Abi Ray is the director of formation and engagement at Hope Border Institute. To learn more visit hopeborder.org.



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Lent: An Opportunity For Healing Through The Sacrament Of Reconciliation



Fr. Michael Lewis, STL

During the penitential season of Lent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is often offered in churches more frequently. However, it is perhaps the most misunderstood of all the sacraments. Many Catholics, fearful they will be embarrassed or judged, avoid the sacrament altogether, thinking they need only seek forgiveness directly from God for the sins they’ve committed. While it is true that God alone forgives our sins, there are other consequences of sin that sacramental confession and absolution help to alleviate. The resulting abundant grace brings about true reconciliation with God and the Church, and our relationships with God and neighbor are truly healed.

First, it’s important to acknowledge the different names for this sacrament, as each one sheds light on a different facet. It is called the sacrament of conversion, because it involves a Christian choosing to turn back to God and away from his or her sinful choices. It is often called the sacrament of *penance*, for the final step of the sacrament is making amends for our sins. It is also frequently called the sacrament of *confession* for its essential element — humbly acknowledging our sins before a priest and taking responsibility for them. It is called the sacrament of *forgiveness*, because confession allows the penitent to be absolved and granted pardon and peace. Finally, it is called the sacrament of *reconciliation*, because this is its ultimate goal — becoming reconciled with our merciful God, restoring our relationship, and rejoining him in intimate friendship along with the other members of the Body of Christ.

We entered into this close relationship at our Baptism, be-

coming adopted children of God and members of Christ’s Body, the Church. Because our sins damage our communion with God and with our neighbor, we must repair more than just our relationship with God when we sin, which is why just asking for God’s forgiveness is not enough. The ritual actions of the entire Sacrament of Reconciliation mend our fractured bond with God, but also serve to heal the disrupted relationships among the people harmed by our sins. Ultimately, the grace received in the Sacrament of Reconciliation helps a Christian with his or her lifelong project of interior conversion towards a life oriented to God’s love and mercy, rather than the fleeting and illusory gratifications of sin.

There are actually three components to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. First, a penitent must have *contrition* — we must truly be sorry for the sins we’ve committed, regret that we committed them, and be resolved to not sin again. Without contrition, one’s confession is hollow and

lacks real weight, for if you are not sorry for having sinned, why do you seek forgiveness?

Second is confession before a priest, where we acknowledge how we’ve “fallen short” of following God’s commandments. (The Greek word for “sin,” *hamartía*, literally means to “fall short.”) In this act of great humility, we both admit our human weaknesses and free ourselves from them. The priest’s role is not to judge, nor to make the penitent feel bad for all the wrong they’ve done. Rather, he is there as a minister of healing, commissioned to be a sign and instrument of God’s merciful love for each sinner. Purposefully omitting sins during confession — often out of embarrassment or fear of being chastised — deprives the penitent of complete reconciliation. As St. Jerome once said, “If the sick person is too ashamed to show his wound to the doctor, the medicine cannot heal what it does not know.”

The third part of the sacrament is *satisfaction*, commonly referred to as penance. As men-

tioned, when one sins, relationships are damaged that require repair. Though you are forgiven and absolved of your sins after your confession, you must still make amends for them. This penance could be prayer, an offering, works of mercy, service, actions of self-denial, or other sacrifices that are done in cooperation with “him who strengthens us,” Jesus Christ. Penance is not punishment, but rather an aid to achieve conversion as well as strength to boldly live the Christian life.

Like all sacraments, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration. As one commentary says, it is a celebration of our re-insertion into the life and community of the Church, and a re-insertion into the dynamism of one’s baptism. We should not shy away from it, but rather thank God for it. It is nothing less than a gift by which we return, like the Prodigal Son, to the merciful embrace of God and his deep and abiding love.

Cuaresma: Una Oportunidad Para Sanar A Través Del Sacramento De La Reconciliación

Durante el tiempo penitencial de la Cuaresma, el Sacramento de la Reconciliación suele ofrecerse en las iglesias con mayor frecuencia. Sin embargo, es quizás el más incomprendido de todos los sacramentos. Muchos católicos, por temor a ser avergonzados o juzgados, evitan el sacramento por completo, pensando que sólo necesitan buscar el perdón directamente de Dios por los pecados que han cometido. Si bien es cierto que sólo Dios perdona nuestros pecados, hay otras consecuencias del pecado que la confesión y la absolución sacramental ayudan a aliviar. La abundante gracia resultante produce una verdadera reconciliación con Dios y con la Iglesia, y nuestras relaciones con Dios y con el prójimo quedan verdaderamente sanadas.

En primer lugar, es importante reconocer los diferentes nombres de este sacramento, ya que cada uno arroja luz sobre una faceta diferente. Se llama sacramento de la conversión, porque implica que un cristiano elige volver a Dios y alejarse de sus acciones pecaminosas. A menudo se le llama el sacramento de la penitencia, porque el paso final del sacramento es reparar nuestros pecados. También se le suele llamar sacramento de la confesión por su elemento esencial: reconocer humildemente nuestros pecados ante un sacerdote y asumir la responsabilidad de los mismos. Se le llama sacramento del perdón,



porque la confesión permite absolver al penitente y concederle el perdón y la paz. Por último, se llama sacramento de la reconciliación, porque éste es su objetivo último: reconciliarse con nuestro Dios misericordioso, restaurar nuestra relación y volver a unirse a él en íntima amistad junto con los demás miembros del Cuerpo de Cristo.

Entramos en esta estrecha relación en nuestro Bautismo, convirtiéndonos en hijos adoptivos de Dios y miembros del Cuerpo de Cristo, la Iglesia. Dado que nuestros pecados dañan nuestra comunión con Dios y con el prójimo, debemos reparar algo más que nuestra relación con Dios cuando pecamos, por lo que no basta con pedir el perdón de Dios. Las acciones rituales de todo el

Sacramento de la Reconciliación reparan nuestro vínculo fracturado con Dios, pero también sirven para sanar las relaciones perturbadas entre las personas perjudicadas por nuestros pecados. En última instancia, la gracia recibida en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación ayuda al cristiano en su proyecto de conversión interior de toda la vida hacia una vida orientada al amor y la misericordia de Dios, en lugar de las gratificaciones fugaces e ilusorias del pecado.

En realidad, el sacramento de la Reconciliación tiene tres componentes. En primer lugar, un penitente debe tener contrición —debemos estar verdaderamente arrepentidos de los pecados que hemos cometido, lamentar haberlos cometido y estar decididos a

no volver a pecar. Sin contrición, la confesión es hueca y carece de peso real, pues si no te arrepientes de haber pecado, ¿por qué buscas el perdón?

La segunda es la confesión ante un sacerdote, en la que reconocemos cómo hemos “quedado cortos” en el cumplimiento de los mandamientos de Dios. (La palabra griega para “pecado”, *hamartía*, significa literalmente “quedarse corto”) En este acto de gran humildad, admitimos nuestras debilidades humanas y nos liberamos de ellas. El papel del sacerdote no es juzgar, ni hacer que el penitente se sienta mal por todo el mal que ha hecho. Más bien, está allí como ministro de sanación, encargado de ser signo e instrumento del amor misericordioso de Dios por cada

pecador. Omitir deliberadamente los pecados durante la confesión —a menudo por vergüenza o por miedo a ser castigado— priva al penitente de una reconciliación completa. Como dijo San Jerónimo: “Si el enfermo se avergüenza de descubrir su llaga al médico, la medicina no cura lo que ignora”.

La tercera parte del sacramento es la satisfacción, comúnmente llamada penitencia. Como se ha dicho, cuando uno peca, se dañan relaciones que requieren reparación. Aunque uno es perdonado y absuelto de sus pecados después de la confesión, aún debe repararlos. Esta penitencia puede ser la oración, una ofrenda, obras de misericordia, servicio, acciones de abnegación u otros sacrificios que se hacen en cooperación con “el que nos fortalece”, Jesucristo. La penitencia no es un castigo, sino una ayuda para lograr la conversión, así como la fuerza para vivir con valentía la vida cristiana.

Como todos los sacramentos, el de la Reconciliación es una celebración. Como dice un comentario, es una celebración de nuestra reinserción en la vida y la comunidad de la Iglesia, y una reinserción en el dinamismo del propio bautismo. No debemos rehuirla, sino dar gracias a Dios por ella. Es nada menos que un don por el que volvemos, como el hijo pródigo, al abrazo misericordioso de Dios y a su amor profundo y permanente.



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St. Luke Catholic Church
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Whatsoever We Do



Janet M. Crowe

Hearing a door slam, the elderly woman listened for the gaggle of voices she knew would follow. She sat on the back patio, enjoying the warm spring day as she waited. Soon family members joined her outside, bringing cookies, lemonade and extra chairs. Each one gave the grandmother a hug or a kiss on the cheek. Suddenly, the quiet of the patio buzzed with conversation. When the chatter slowed a bit, a woman nudged her teenage daughter and motioned toward the grandmother with a reassuring smile. The teenager sighed and asked, “Grandma, would you help me with my confirmation project?” “Of course, Susana, I’d be happy to help if I can,” encouraged the grandmother. “Our confirmation teacher says our Lenten sacrifices are kind of lacking in sincerity,” Susana complained. “Most of us have just given up something simple like desserts or sodas. So, Mom thought we might try to pray a rosary every night, but I just have so much homework, plus I keep forgetting. Do you

have any ideas, Grandma?” “Maybe you are trying to do too much, or maybe you aren’t sure of the purpose of your sacrifice,” replied Grandma, patting her granddaughter’s hand. “I find it best to personalize my prayers, such as offering one Hail Mary for each of my children and grandchildren.” She looked around at those gathered on the patio. “That means a decade or two each night,” she added with a wink. Susana interrupted, “Oh, we’re also supposed to do some kind of practical service for others. How do I do both?” “Well, first you pray,” answered Grandma. “Prayer is the best way to begin any type of service or charitable project because you need to make sure you’re doing it for the right reason. Ask yourself if you’re performing this good deed because it’s an assignment or because you really want to help.” Pausing to look around the yard, the grandmother’s eyes lingered on flowers blooming nearby. She turned back to her granddaughter, “Life is a journey of seasons. We endure times when bare winter tree branches reflect an emptiness inside of us, the difficulties we must get through. Then things brighten up and all seems right in our world, like the blossoming of the trees. A dark, cloudy day or a challenging obstacle may cause us to stumble or give up. We forget that the darkness of a storm might bring rain which would be us discovering the strength within our inner

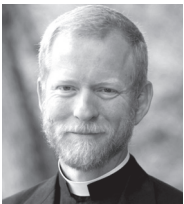
clouds to overcome the obstacle, and that results in flowering bushes and better times.” Smiling at her granddaughter, she continued, “Lent is also a journey, an attempt to step away from things that take us away from God, a time to exercise our willpower against temptation in order to put us back on the path toward God’s love and grace. During Lent, we reflect on Christ’s time in the desert and, with Christ, we prepare our hearts and souls for the most important event in history, the Resurrection. We want to cast off those things that prevent us from being at the foot of the Cross with our Lord. In contemplating what Jesus went through for our sakes, we realize His great love for us and we, hopefully, try to imitate His love and respond in a more loving way toward others.” “How?” asked Susana. “Remember what we did during Advent?” asked Grandma. “Sure,” Susana said, “each time we did something good or were nice to others, we put a piece of yarn in a little cardboard manger to make a softer bed of straw for baby Jesus. But, Grandma, that’s really a kid’s thing, to make children behave, isn’t it?” “Is it?” asked Grandma. “If I pray for someone in need, even someone I don’t know, then maybe I lessen the agony Jesus suffered when He was scourged, easing the pain of one of the stripes upon His back by doing something good

for someone suffering their own personal pain, sickness or distress. If I donate a cute baby outfit to a group like Guiding Star, maybe I’m helping Christ carry His cross by showing a pregnant woman that someone is willing to lighten her load. If I bring flowers to a nursing home, maybe I am standing with Mary at the foot of her Son’s cross and consoling God’s children who are lonely and missing their loved ones. If I give up one of life’s simple pleasures, I can save the money I would have spent and donate it to a charity like the food bank. Then maybe I’m easing the pain Christ endured when they crowned Him with thorns, and I would also strengthen myself in avoiding the temptation to make money or selfishness my king.” “Grandma, I can’t do all of that!” exclaimed Susana. “Of course not,” reassured her grandmother. “No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. Remember, whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren.” “You do unto Me,” said Susana. “But what do I do?” “Your offering must be personal, from your heart, from what you consider important,” Grandma said. “In your case, you might consider offering a prayer for other teenagers who are struggling and need to know that someone cares. Then find a way to put that prayer into action in whatever way you choose. Maybe you could take some friends on an outing

to the Holocaust Museum and learn how others helped those in danger even though it meant danger for themselves. A trip to the food bank would show how fortunate we are and motivate us to do more for others. There are many ways to be of service, you must choose the path that will let you walk with Jesus on His way of the cross.” “Well, that’s rather overwhelming,” sighed Susana. “Anyway, Lent has already started so isn’t it really too late to start something now? Maybe I’ll wait until next year.” “Nice try,” laughed her grandmother. “Tell me, what feast day do we celebrate in just a few days, before Easter?” “Um, Palm Sunday? No, that’s not a feast day.” Susana wrinkled her forehead in thought. “Um, is it the day honoring St. Joseph? Oh, I know! Feast of the Annunciation!” “Yes! The Annunciation is the beginning of the Resurrection story!” declared Grandma. “Now, consider if Mary or St. Joseph had said they’d rather wait until next year.” “Okay, you’re right, Grandma. I suppose it’s better late than never,” agreed Susana. “I’ll do my best to find a way to walk alongside Mary and Joseph and, especially, Jesus and try to imitate their love this Lent, even if I am getting a late start on the journey.” “That’s the spirit,” urged Grandma. “Oh! Take the Holy Spirit with you on your journey. He can share a bit of wisdom along the way.”

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Too Much Morphine?



Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

To help people navigate some of the complex decisions involved in end-of-life situations, the National Catholic Bioethics Center offers a free and confidential consultation service via e-mail or phone. Often we are asked about the appropriate use of morphine and other opioids. Family members may be understandably concerned about the potential for overdosing their loved ones, as hospice workers appear to “ramp up” the morphine rapidly, especially in the last few hours of life. What principles can guide us in the appropriate use of morphine near the end of life? It can be helpful to summarize a few key points here. Morphine and other opioids can be very useful — indeed, invaluable — in controlling pain and reducing suffering for

many patients near the end of life. Morphine is also used to alleviate anxiety and labored breathing. Opioids are highly effective pain management tools in the tool box of palliative care and hospice specialists. These drugs need to be used carefully, since very high doses are capable of suppressing a patient’s ability to breathe, which can lead to death. Medically appropriate use of these drugs for pain management will involve the important concept of titration. Dosage titration means giving enough medication to dull or limit the pain, but not going so far as to cause unconsciousness or death. This implies continually assessing and adjusting the balance of a drug to assure it is effective and not unduly harmful. In other words, pain medications should be dispensed in response to concrete indicators of pain and discomfort, so that patients can have their pain-relief needs met but not be unnecessarily over-medicated. Practically speaking, it is important to pay attention to signs of discomfort that a patient may be manifesting, whether grimacing, twitching, crying,

flailing extremities, or other movements. Such objective indicators should guide those making dosing decisions as they seek to control pain and limit discomfort. As families receive advice about how to care for their loved ones, and try to make good decisions on their behalf, one question that should be asked is, “What is the reason someone is being given (or is being advised to receive) pain medication?” Is the medication being provided because the patient is actually experiencing pain, or for some other reason, such as an intent to hasten death? This can be an important factor in determining whether the administration of a particular pain medication would be ethical or not. By carefully dispensing pain medications without rendering patients lethargic or semi-comatose, to the extent possible, we afford them the opportunity to make preparations for their death while still conscious. In general, patients should not be deprived of alertness or consciousness except to mitigate excruciating or otherwise unbearable pain. In order to address situa-

tions of escalating pain, it may become necessary to administer higher and higher doses of morphine or other opioids. At a certain point, we may face the prospect that the next dose we provide to properly control the pain will be so high that it will suppress the patient’s breathing, leading to death. The principle of double effect can guide and assist us in such cases. When the clinical requirement of proper titration of pain medications is carried out, and the other conditions of the principle are satisfied, a strict and appropriate use of pain medication in this manner can be allowable, even when it may indirectly or unintentionally contribute to an individual’s demise. This has been helpfully summed up in Directive 61 of the Ethical and Religious Directives of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, which reminds us that, “Medicines capable of alleviating or suppressing pain may be given to a dying person, even if this therapy may indirectly shorten the person’s life so long as the intent is not to hasten death. Patients experiencing suffering that cannot be alleviated should be helped to

appreciate the Christian understanding of redemptive suffering.” In situations of truly intractable pain, it can be legitimate to employ “palliative sedation,” which involves the decision to render a patient unconscious during his or her final hours. This should be done with proper consent, obtained from the patient or the designated surrogate. It is important to avoid any suicidal intention and to ensure that other duties, such as receiving the last sacraments and saying goodbye to loved ones, have been fulfilled. Such careful attention to pain management is of paramount importance in end-of-life care and supports both the patient and the family in a dignified way during the dying process. *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 and www.fathertad.com.*

Cómo Llegamos A Donde Estamos



Padre Wilson Cuevas

Convencidos que lo sabíamos todo, que podíamos todo y teníamos todo; nos endiosamos y términos rebeldizandonos y excluyendo a Dios de nuestra vida y de nuestra sociedad. Así comenzamos a crear nuestros ídolos: Ciencia, tecnología, dinero, diversión y toda clase de adiciones y nos hemos ido empobreciendo espiritualmente por enriquecernos materialmente. Llamamos progreso a la destrucción y necesitamos aprender a vivir en armonía con Dios, con los demás y con la madre tierra.

Todos necesitamos una gran dosis de humildad y el esfuerzo por corregir la soberbia que nos ha llevado a esta “torre de babel” por el ansia de poder y de poseer. Estamos enfermos y confundidos; porque no hay cuerpo sano en un espíritu enfermo. Necesitamos reconciliarnos con nuestro creador para conseguir la paz interior y un despertar espiritual. La autentica alegría nace de convivir en armonía. Una armonía que brota de la honestidad y el desapego y de una relación amorosa con Dios, con los demás y con nuestra madre tierra que es la casa común que compartimos.

No es cambiando de lugar o usando este medicamento sino cambiando de actitud como podemos solucionar la crisis. Y un dicho popular lo enuncia así: “De poco sirve cambiar de lugar porque el diablo viaja en todos los transportes”. Es en lo profundo del corazón humano donde debe darse una transformación

iluminada por la fe e inspirada en el amor a Dios y a sus enseñanzas. Esa transformación interior pide sencillez para reconocer las propias fallas y no vivir culpando a los demás. También es necesario un firme compromiso que se traduzca en acciones nuevas y positivas. Sin un plan de acción todo se diluye en hermosas promesas.

Parece irracional pero hay quienes solo aceptan su responsabilidad cuando están hundidos en el estiércol. Solo después de lastimarse y lastimar a muchos, toman conciencia de que son ellos los que están mal y necesitan ayuda. Si de verdad se comprometen a mejorar y a iniciar un nuevo modo de vivir en cualquier edad. Nunca es tarde para cambiar y renacer. Dios siempre está esperando con amor y paciencia que volvamos a Él.

Es bueno meditar las enseñanzas del libro de Proverbios. Ese libro recoge la sabiduría del pueblo judío, acumulada a lo largo de varios siglos, allí se habla mucho del “temor de Dios” como principio de sabiduría, significa amar a Dios y confiar en El, más que al miedo. Hoy en día conviene recuperar el temor de Dios como un freno ético. En el lenguaje bíblico “temor de Dios” significa seguir y hacer su voluntad. Ser fiel creyente. Por eso se dice allí muchas veces que el hombre feliz es el que escucha a Dios y sigue sus caminos. Asimilar los proverbios y practicarlos es un excelente medio para elegir lo mejor y hacer la voluntad divina que dice: “Tesoros mal adquiridos no aprovechan mas la justicia libra de la muerte”. (Prov. 10,2).

Podemos aprender mucho y llevarnos gratas sorpresas dejando de valor más las apariencias, lo que más figura, lo superficial; valorando más la grandeza de lo



pequeño, lo que menos brilla y lo que no se aprecia en el mundo del tener y del aparecer. Son las flores y las rosas las que atraen todas las miradas y poco o nada se exalta a las raíces silenciosas al tallo, a la savia o a las hojas.

Se cuenta que la esposa de un finquero necesitaba grano para agasajar a un grupo de amigos, en un banquete organizado por su marido. Se madrugo un día y se dedico a descortezar el grano. Luego lo tendió al sol para secarlo y le dijo a su esposo: “No dejes que los perros o los pájaros lo estropeen”. La mujer se fue a hacer otras faenas y como el esposo se distrajo paso un perro y se meo en el grano.

Cuando el esposo volvió sintió asco, recogió el grano y se fue al mercado. Allí lo cambio por granos no descortezados, cantidad por cantidad igual. Mientras ello lo hacía, un anciano le dijo a su amigo: “Por alguna razón esa mujer está cambiando grano descortezado por grano no descortezado”.

Se prudente y cauteloso cuando algo se te presente muy fácil y muy ventajoso: Recuerda que ante la tentación hace falta la reflexión. Creces en sabiduría cuando buscas las razones ocultas de los hechos sin dejarte engañar por las aparentes ganancias. El sabio siempre busca la razón profunda de los hechos.

Eres prudente cuando oras, meditas y con armonía interior huyes de la superficialidad. Piensa y recuerda que la vida es un obsequio y que la humanidad ha estado malgastando pero en medio de este desorden, se puede ver la gracia de un nuevo comienzo a nuestro alrededor. No fallemos participando de la locura en que vivimos. Creamos y dispongámonos a pasar el resto de nuestras vidas siendo un canal de esta misma bondad para otros. Los cristianos genuinos nunca dejar de servir, porque nunca dejan de amar y nunca dejan de amar, porque nunca dejar de creer!

How We Got Where We Are!

Convinced that we knew everything, that we could do everything and we had everything; we deified ourselves and we started to rebel and exclude God from our life and our society. Thus we began to create our idols: Science, technology, money, fun and all kinds of additions and we have been impoverishing ourselves spiritually by enriching ourselves materially. We call destruction progress and we need to learn to live in harmony with God, with others and with mother earth.

We all need a great dose of humility and the effort to correct the pride that has led us to this “tower of babel” for the lust of power and possession. We are sick and confused; because there is no healthy body in a sick spirit. We need to reconcile with our creator to achieve inner peace and spiritual awakening. Authentic joy is born from living together in harmony. A harmony that springs from honesty and detachment and from a loving relationship with God, with others

and with our mother earth which is the common home we share.

It is not by changing our place or using this medicine but by changing our attitude that we can solve the crisis. And a popular saying puts it this way: “It is of little use to change places because the devil travels in all transports”. It is in the depths of the human heart that a transformation enlightened by faith and inspired by love for God and his teachings must take place. This inner transformation calls for simplicity in recognizing one’s own failings and not living by blaming others. It also requires a firm commitment that translates into new and positive actions. Without a plan of action everything is diluted in beautiful promises.

It seems irrational but there are those who only accept their responsibility when they are deep in the muck. Only after hurting themselves and many others, they become aware that they are the ones who are bad and need help. If they are truly committed

to improve and start a new way of living in any age. It is never too late to change and be reborn. God is always waiting with love and patience for us to return to Him.

It is good to meditate on the teachings of the book of Proverbs. This book gathers the wisdom of the Jewish people, accumulated over several centuries, there is much talk about the “fear of God” as a principle of wisdom, it means to love God and trust in Him, rather than fear. Today it is convenient to recover the fear of God as an ethical brake. In biblical language “fear of God” means to follow and do his will. To be a faithful believer. That is why it is said there many times that the happy man is the one who listens to God and follows his ways. To assimilate the proverbs and to practice them is an excellent means to choose the best and to do the divine will that says: “Ill-gotten treasures profit nothing, but righteousness delivers from death” (Prov. 10:2). (Prov. 10:2).

We can learn a lot and get pleasant surprises leaving of value more of the appearances, what is most visible, what is superficial; valuing more the greatness of the small, what is less shining and what is not appreciated in the world of having and appearing. It is the flowers and the roses that attract all the looks and little or nothing is exalted to the silent roots to the stem, to the sap or to the leaves.

The story goes that a farmer’s wife needed grain to entertain a group of friends at a banquet organized by her husband. She got up early one day and began to husk the grain. Then she laid it out to dry in the sun and said to her husband: “Don’t let the dogs or the birds spoil it”. The woman went off to do other chores and when the husband was distracted, a dog came by and peed on the grain. When the husband returned he felt disgusted, picked up the grain and went to the market. There he exchanged it for unhusked grain, quantity for quantity. While doing so, an old

man said to his friend: “For some reason that woman is exchanging hulled grain for unhulled grain”.

Be prudent and cautious when something comes very easy and very advantageous to you: Remember that in the face of temptation, reflection is necessary. You grow in wisdom when you look for the hidden reasons of the facts without being deceived by the apparent gains. The wise man always seeks the deep reason for the facts. You are wise when you pray, meditate and flee from superficiality with inner harmony. Think and remember that life is a gift and that humanity has been wasting but in the midst of this disorder, you can see the grace of a new beginning around us. Let us not fail to participate in the madness in which we live. Let us believe and be willing to spend the rest of our lives being a channel of this same goodness to others. Genuine Christians never stop serving, because they never stop loving and never stop loving, because they never stop believing!

This Is The Day That The Lord Has Made – Let Us Rejoice!

By **Christie Rodriguez**
Capital Campaign Coordinator

This is the day that the Lord has made – let us rejoice! As we reflect on the path that has led us here, it is clear that we have been challenged to think, act, and grow our spiritual identity in new and innovative ways. During this time, we have found opportunities to stay connected as a community of faith, we’ve remained steadfast in our commitment to build God’s Kingdom on earth, and we’ve bravely taken the first steps, together, to build up the future of our Catholic community in El Paso and beyond.

More than 6,000 families have shared their gifts for the Church of Tomorrow, raising more than

\$14.2 million! Our goal is to raise \$18 million and we are not yet done. Funds raised through the campaign directly support four programs to ensure the future of the Diocese remains strong: Seminarian/Diaconate Education and Formation; Catholic Education and Religious Formation; Parish Emergency Assistance; and Strengthening Parishes at the Local Level. Our parishes are our spiritual homes – places where we worship, where we celebrate, where we mourn, and where we are formed as disciples.

As our active fundraising for the We Are the Body of Christ campaign concludes, we reflect on this historic moment with gratitude for the vision and bold-

ness of those who have joined our efforts. In the last month, Fr. Hector Chicas at Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission surpassed the parish’s campaign goal by 347%! To date, they have raised \$34,670 to support upgrades to their parish hall emergency exit doors, their sound system, projectors for their classrooms, and internet. Without the support and transformational commitments from parishioners, families, and friends, Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission would not have been able to achieve this incredible accomplishment. Another joyous moment to celebrate is San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado led by Fr. German Alzate, whose parish is now over 130% of their \$170,000 goal after celebrating

one Commitment Weekend! Funds raised will support various parish projects and reducing their debt to build the newly established San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado parish.

While the pandemic impacted our gatherings, worship, and outlook, we have learned from this difficult experience and emerged stronger than before. We are emboldened to imagine, with the power, guidance, and strength of the Holy Spirit, who we will be in the future, so that we can spread the Gospel message and help others deepen their relationship with God. Our parish communities are pathways, our clergy are our guides, for increased discipleship across our El Paso community and beyond.

We are grateful, for the enduring impact these families have made in our community. Thank you, for your support of our historic campaign. Our gifts will enable us to move forward confidently, ensuring that our parishes continue to grow in community and continue to share Christ’s love with our children, our neighbors, and the world. Thank you, for your prayerful consideration and please join us in praying for the success of our We Are the Body of Christ campaign.

For more information, please visit our website: www.bodyof-christcampaign.com or call (915) 872-8412, Ext 137.

Este Es El Día Que El Señor Ha Hecho - ¡Alegremos!

By **Christie Rodriguez**
Capital Campaign Coordinator

Este es el día que el Señor ha hecho - ¡alegrémonos! Al reflexionar sobre el camino que nos ha llevado hasta aquí, está claro que hemos sido desafiados a pensar, actuar y hacer crecer nuestra identidad espiritual de maneras nuevas e innovadoras. Durante este tiempo, hemos encontrado oportunidades para mantenernos conectados como comunidad de fe, nos hemos mantenido firmes en nuestro compromiso de construir el Reino de Dios en la tierra, y hemos dado valientemente los primeros pasos, juntos, para construir el futuro de nuestra comunidad católica en El Paso y más allá.

Más de 6.000 familias han compartido sus donaciones para

la Iglesia del Mañana, ¡recaudando más de 14,2 millones de dólares! Nuestra meta es recaudar 18 millones de dólares y aún no hemos terminado. Los fondos recaudados a través de la campaña apoyan directamente cuatro programas para asegurar que el futuro de la Diócesis siga siendo fuerte: Educación y Formación de Seminaristas/Diáconos; Educación Católica y Formación Religiosa; Asistencia Parroquial de Emergencia; y Fortalecimiento de las Parroquias a Nivel Local. Nuestras parroquias son nuestros hogares espirituales - lugares donde adoramos, donde celebramos, donde lloramos y donde nos formamos como discípulos.

Al concluir nuestra activa recaudación de fondos para la campaña Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo, reflexionamos sobre este

momento histórico con gratitud por la visión y la audacia de quienes se han unido a nuestros esfuerzos. En el último mes, el Padre Héctor Chicas de la Misión del Inmaculado Corazón de María superó la meta de la campaña de la parroquia en un 347%. Hasta la fecha, han recaudado 34.670 dólares para apoyar las mejoras de las puertas de salida de emergencia de su salón parroquial, su sistema de sonido, proyectores para sus aulas e internet. Sin el apoyo y los compromisos transformadores de los feligreses, las familias y los amigos, la Misión del Inmaculado Corazón de María no habría podido alcanzar este increíble logro. Otro momento de alegría para celebrar es el de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, dirigido por el P. Germán Alzate, cuya parro-

quia ya ha superado el 130% de su objetivo de 170.000 dólares tras celebrar un fin de semana de compromiso. Los fondos recaudados apoyarán varios proyectos de la parroquia y la reducción de su deuda para construir la recién establecida parroquia de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado.

Si bien la pandemia afectó nuestras reuniones, el culto y las perspectivas, hemos aprendido de esta difícil experiencia y hemos salido más fuertes que antes. Nos animamos a imaginar, con el poder, la guía y la fuerza del Espíritu Santo, quiénes seremos en el futuro, para poder difundir el mensaje del Evangelio y ayudar a otros a profundizar su relación con Dios. Nuestras comunidades parroquiales son caminos, nuestro clero es nuestro guía, para aumentar el discipula-

do en nuestra comunidad de El Paso y más allá.

Estamos agradecidos por el impacto duradero que estas familias han tenido en nuestra comunidad. Gracias por su apoyo a nuestra campaña histórica. Nuestras donaciones nos permitirán avanzar con confianza, asegurando que nuestras parroquias sigan creciendo en comunidad y continúen compartiendo el amor de Cristo con nuestros niños, nuestros vecinos y el mundo. Gracias, por su consideración en la oración y por favor únanse a nosotros en la oración por el éxito de nuestra campaña Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo.

Para más información, por favor visite nuestra página web: www.bodyofchristcampaign.com o llame al (915) 872-8412, Ext 137.

INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH



SCAN ME

A PODCAST WITH THE MOST REV. MARK J. SEITZ, D.D. OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EL PASO





Catholic Foundation to Invite Community Back to Parishes

By **Karina Sandoval**
Stewardship Coordinator

The Catholic Foundation is inviting the El Paso community back to the Eucharist by communications and outreach throughout this year. According to the 2021 Diocesan Mass attendance count, an average of 51,000 individuals attend Sunday Mass and more than 10,000 individuals view Mass online or at the local

television stations in El Paso. In efforts to invite the community back to the Eucharist the Catholic Foundation will launch a communications campaign called: “Take your Place at the Table of the Lord Campaign,” after Easter of 2022, where everyone will be invited to the Eucharist and to be present to one another in prayer, service and giving. This campaign will offer parishes online and print

resources to easily use and deliver to families that haven’t returned to parishes and to ask attending parishioners to invite family members or relatives to the Eucharist. Recently, Notre Dame theologian Tim O’ Malley gave a presentation to the Diocese of El Paso in regards to the importance of receiving the Eucharist nowadays where virtual Masses are available. Theologian O’ Malley

said: “Real presence matters after Covid-19 because we are meant to be present to the Lord and we are meant to be present to one another.” Fr. Mike Lewis, St. Mark’s Catholic Church Vicar, added to the presentation that “We become tabernacles, when we receive the Eucharist.” O’ Malley’s presentation is available on the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso Youtube channel.

For more information on the efforts to bring the community back to parishes, please contact Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator for the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso at 915-872-8412 or at ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org

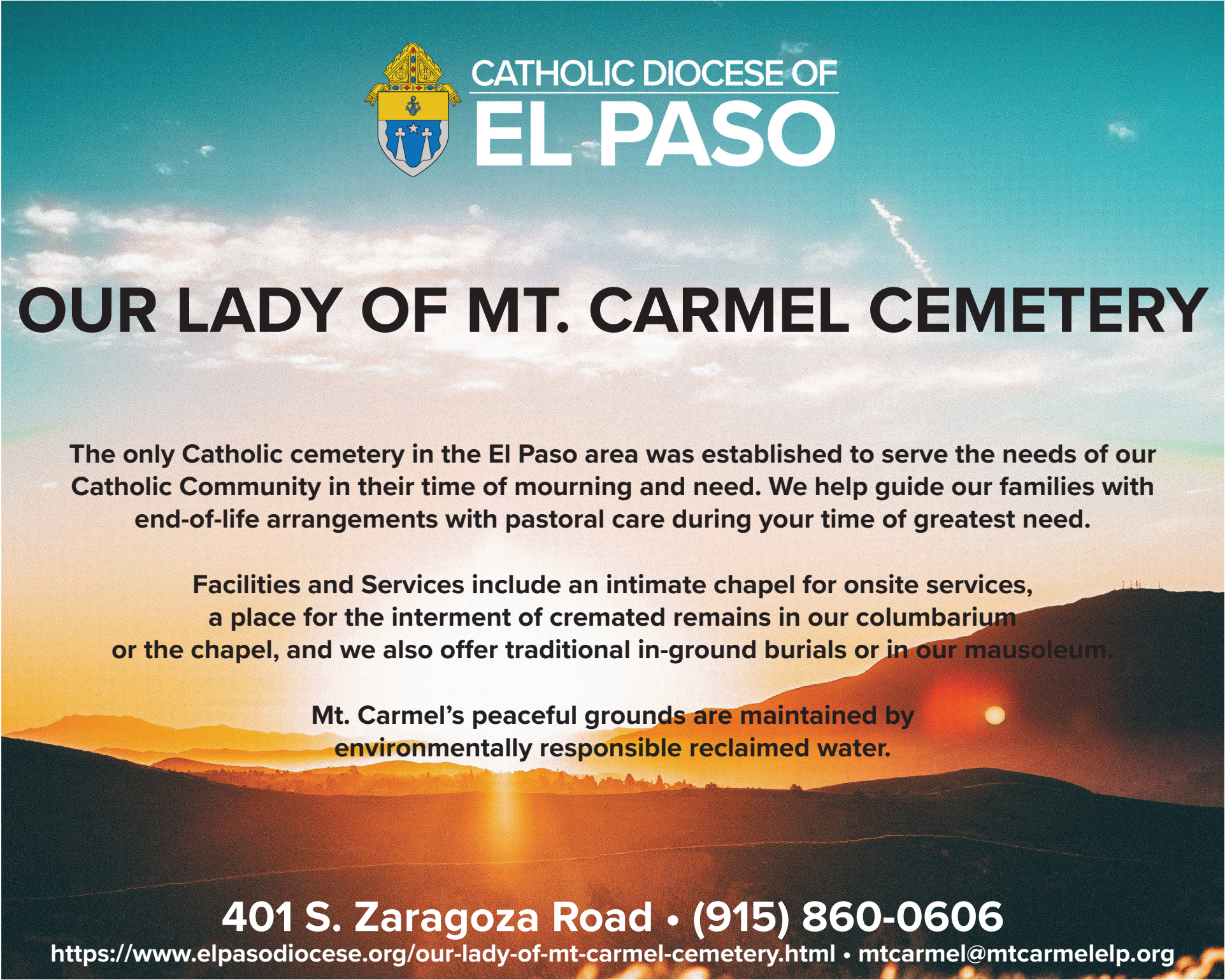



La Santa Misa

CADA DOMINGO A LAS 10 AM EN EL CANAL


TV AZTECA

CANAL - 7.4
TIME WARNER CABLE - 9
COMCAST XFINITY - 390
DIRECTV - 42
DISH NETWORK - 825





CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
EL PASO

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CEMETERY

The only Catholic cemetery in the El Paso area was established to serve the needs of our Catholic Community in their time of mourning and need. We help guide our families with end-of-life arrangements with pastoral care during your time of greatest need.

Facilities and Services include an intimate chapel for onsite services, a place for the interment of cremated remains in our columbarium or the chapel, and we also offer traditional in-ground burials or in our mausoleum.

Mt. Carmel’s peaceful grounds are maintained by environmentally responsible reclaimed water.

401 S. Zaragoza Road • (915) 860-0606
<https://www.elpasodiocese.org/our-lady-of-mt-carmel-cemetery.html> • mtcarmel@mtcarmeelp.org

Father Yermo hosts Senior Class Mass

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

The Catholic Foundation brought Catholic high school seniors together for the 10th Annual Senior Class Mass, hosted by Father Yermo. Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, D.D., Bishop of El Paso, was the main celebrant.

The Cathedral, Father Yermo, and Loretto Academy Class of 2022 gathered in the Rudolph Miles Gymnasium which had been transformed momentarily into a beautiful and welcoming worship space. Father Yermo students served as lectors and altar servers. The choir was made up entirely of Father Yermo Sisters who sang and played musical instruments.

Guest speaker Mike Miles offered words of inspiration.

Mike and his wife Clara established the Michael M. & Clara Miles Scholarship Fund for Cathedral, Father Yermo, and Loretto Academy in 2009 with a gift of \$2.6 million. The Father Yermo gym is named after the late Rudy Miles, Mike’s father.

After the final blessing, seniors took their annual group photo with Bishop Mark and were each provided a delicious breakfast prepared by Father Yermo volunteers in a to-go paper sack.

The presence of Catholic Schools Superintendent Dr. Lanny Hollis, school administrators, and religious sisters was a blessing.

The Father Yermo Sisters did an excellent job of planning a celebration that ensured attendees were safely distanced and left everyone feeling energized and proud to be Catholic.

Every year Catholic high school seniors come together to celebrate Mass and kick off the annual Senior Class Challenge, a tradition started in 2011. The Catholic Foundation aims to work with our high school seniors to build community and



The Cathedral, Father Yermo, and Loretto Academy Class of 2022 gathered in the Rudolph Miles Gymnasium for Mass presided by The Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, D.D., Father Yermo students served as lectors and altar servers. The choir was made up entirely of Father Yermo Sisters. ✎

inspire philanthropy.

The Catholic Foundation challenged the senior classes from Cathedral High School, Father Yermo High School, and Loretto Academy to raise at least \$1,000 to support endowed scholarship funds for their schools. The Catholic Foundation will match up to \$1,000 of what each class raises. The permanent endowed

Catholic school funds provide needed scholarships and financial aid annually to students attending Catholic schools.

It’s a privilege to honor Catholic high school seniors in El Paso every year and it always brings much hope and joy. I started my journey at Loretto Academy in 1978. That first chapter ended when I graduated in 1987 and a

new one began again when my two daughters started school there.

The Class of 2022 is very near and dear to my heart and I will be praying for all of our Catholic school seniors as they venture out into the world. I know you will too.

To leave your legacy for Catholic schools, contact Major Gifts

Officer Sofia Larkin at (915) 872-8412 or slarkin@catholic-foundationelpaso.org. The Catholic Foundation is located at the Catholic Pastoral Center at 499 St. Matthews Street in Building G. Office hours are Monday – Friday from 9am – 5pm and by appointment.

THE
RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

ADVERTISE WITH US

CONTACT THE OFFICE
OF COMMUNICATIONS
CHRISTOPHER VELASQUEZ, ADVERTISING MANAGER
915-872-8414



GROWING IN FAITH GIVING IN LOVE

We ought to thank God always for you, brothers, as is fitting, because your faith flourishes ever more, and the love of every one of you for one another grows ever greater.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:3



**MAKE YOUR
DONATION
TODAY!**



CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
FOR THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO

GROWING IN FAITH + GIVING IN LOVE

CATHOLIC
MINISTRY APPEAL
— PROGRESS 2022 —

The Catholic Ministry Appeal 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. It is through our faith and love that we can provide the opportunity to create a strong Catholic community.

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 2022 Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal will help fund areas of your choice.

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 monetary pledge of support. With everyone’s help, your ministries can carry on the work that Christ entrusted to His Church.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE PROGRESS: CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL?

- ➔ Online at WWW.2022PROGRESS.ORG
- ➔ Through the QR code
- ➔ By phone at (915) 872-8412
- ➔ By mail to Progress 2022 Appeal
P.O. Box 17993
El Paso, Texas 79917



\$1,900,000 GOAL

12,000 DONORS

In order to reach our goal of \$1,900,000 in 2022, we PRAYERFULLY ask all returning donors to consider increasing their pledge to the next level of giving.

Designate Your Gift to the Area of Your Choice



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 | Youth & Young Adult 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 | Peace & Justice 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.

**Your Gift Helps Our Ministries Serve
Tens of Thousands of People in the
Diocese of El Paso.
Please Make Your Donation Today!**



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2022PROGRESS.ORG

CAMPAÑA CATOLICA PARA LOS MINISTERIOS

PROGRESO 2022



CRECIENDO EN LA FIE + DANDO CON AMOR

Tenemos que dar en todo tiempo gracias a Dios por vosotros, hermanos, como es justo, porque vuestra fe está progresando mucho y se acrecienta la mutua caridad de todos y cada uno de vosotros.

II TESALONICENSES 1, 3



¡HAGA SU
DONACIÓN
HOY!



CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
FOR THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO

CRECIENDO EN LA FÉ DANDO CON AMOR

CAMPAÑA CATOLICA
PARA LOS MINISTERIOS
PROGRESO 2022

La Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos 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. Es a través de nuestra fe y amor que podemos brindar la oportunidad de crear una comunidad católica fuerte.

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 Progreso 2022: la Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos ayudará a financiar áreas de su elección:

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.

¿CÓMO PUEDO YO APOYAR A PROGRESO - CAMPAÑA PARA LOS MINISTERIOS CATÓLICOS?

➔ En línea en WWW.2022PROGRESS.ORG

➔ Por QR code

➔ Por teléfono al (915) 872-8412

➔ Por correo a Campaña de Progreso 2022

P. O. Box 17993

El Paso, Texas 79917



\$1,900,000 META

12,000 DONANTES

Con el fin de alcanzar nuestra meta de \$1.9 millones en el 2022, pedimos en oración que todos los donantes vuelvan a considerar aumentar la cantidad de su compromiso a un nivel más alto.

Asigne Su Donativo al Área de su elección



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 Jóvenes y Adultos Jóvenes | 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 Paz y Justicia



Seminarista y Formación de Diaconado

Ministerios que reclutan y capacitan a los seminaristas y diáconos permanentes para la Diócesis de El Paso

Programa de Seminaristas Mayores y Seminario San Carlos | Programa Diaconado Permanente | Ministerio de Vocaciones



Área de Mayor Necesidad

La Fundación puede maximizar su donativo y utilizarlo para lograr el mayor impacto posible si elige esta designación. Eso es porque siempre estamos evaluando las áreas de mayor necesidad en nuestra comunidad católica y trabajando para encontrar las mejores soluciones posibles.

**Sus donaciones Ayudan a Servir a Decenas de Miles de Personas en Nuestra Diócesis.
¡Por favor, Haga su Donación Hoy!**



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