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Fr. Trini Fuentez • 1952–2021

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THE

RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

Celebrating 30 Years serving the Diocese of El Paso

May 2021

Vol. 30, No. 5

Five Transitional Deacons Ordained

By Fr. Michael L. Lewis
Special Correspondent

On a night he deemed "historic," Bishop Mark J. Seitz ordained to the order of deacons five seminarians studying to become priests in the Diocese of El Paso. In a Mass celebrated April 16 in English, Spanish, and Creole at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Church, José William Arévalo Narváez, Astry Déraly, Cesar García-Ortega, Edroud Jean and Sergio Legareta Carrasco became the largest group of transitional deacons to be ordained in the diocese in more than 20 years.

"What an amazing, historic night for our diocese," Bishop Seitz said at the beginning of the Mass. "It's been a good while since we've ordained five men to the transitional diaconate. It is a sign, in the midst of so many struggles this last year, that the Lord is present doing good work in our lives."

After hearing Scripture accounts of the bold witness of the first Christian disciples and the abundant generosity of Jesus in the multiplication of the fishes and loaves, Bishop Seitz exhorted the candidates to live authentic lives in service to the Gospel.

"There's something about God's work; it's always authentic to the core," Bishop Seitz said. "He breaks through artifice. He reveals truth. He calls those who are to be his disciples to live it—not just for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, but 24/7 in all we do."

Referring to the promises that the candidates would make to the bishop during the ordination rite — promises of service, prayer, celibacy and obedience — Bishop Seitz called them to be generous in their self-giving.

"I ask you to live the promises you will make at this altar tonight, not grudgingly, not sparingly, but generously," he said. "Live the celibate life, not just as some form of the easy bachelor lifestyle, but as something that frees you to give your life even more in service to the people of God. Live the promise of obedience, not just in the big things, but in the small things, seeking to be faithful in your response to what the Church is asking of you. Pray with the Church willingly, recognizing that this is the very



Above: Bishop Mark Seitz prays the Prayer of Ordination during the diaconate ordination Mass on April 16 at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Church in El Paso.

Left: From left, Deacons Sergio Legareta Carrasco, Astry Déraly, José William Arévalo Narváez, Edroud Jean and Cesar García-Ortega were ordained transitional deacons.

Photos by Fr. Miguel Briseño

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Se ordenan cinco diáconos transitorios

Por P. Michael L. Lewis
Correspondent

En una noche que consideró "histórica", el Obispo Mark J. Seitz ordenó al orden de los diáconos a cinco seminaristas que estudian para ser sacerdotes en la Diócesis de El Paso. En una misa celebrada el 16 de abril en inglés, español y criollo en la iglesia St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, José William Arévalo Narváez, Astry Déraly, Cesar García-Ortega, Edroud Jean y Sergio Legareta Carrasco se convirtieron en el grupo más grande de diáconos transitorios en ser ordenados en la diócesis en más de 20 años.

"Qué noche tan increíble e histórica para nuestra diócesis", dijo el obispo Seitz al comienzo de la misa. "Hacía tiempo que no ordenábamos a cinco hombres al diaconado transitorio. Es un signo, en medio de tantas luchas este último año, de que el Señor está presente haciendo una buena obra en nuestras vidas."

Después de escuchar los relatos de las Escrituras sobre el audaz testimonio de los primeros discípulos y la abundante generosidad de Jesús en la multiplicación de los peces y los panes, el obispo Seitz exhortó a los candidatos a vivir vidas auténticas al servicio del Evangelio.

"Hay algo en la obra de Dios; es auténtica hasta la médula", dijo el obispo Seitz. "Él rompe con los artificios. Revela la verdad. Llama a los que van a ser sus discípulos a vivirla—no sólo durante 8 horas al día, 5 días a la semana, sino 24/7."

Refiriéndose a las promesas que los candidatos harían al obispo durante el rito de ordenación —promesas de servicio, oración, celibato y obediencia—el obispo Seitz pidió a los candidatos que fueran generosos en su entrega.

"Les pido que vivan las promesas que van a hacer en este altar esta noche, no a regañadientes, no con parsimonia, sino con

generosidad", dijo. "Vive la vida célibe, no sólo como una forma de estilo de vida de soltero fácil, sino como algo que te libera para dar tu vida aún más en el servicio al pueblo de Dios. Vive la promesa de obediencia, no sólo en las cosas grandes, sino en las pequeñas, buscando ser fiel en tu respuesta a lo que la Iglesia te pide. Recibe con la Iglesia de buena gana, reconociendo que este es el corazón mismo de su servicio al pueblo de Dios".

Tras las promesas de los candidatos y el canto de las letanías de los santos, el obispo Seitz

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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Welcome to the World, Eva Mae

In case you were wondering, this article is *not* celebrating the 30th anniversary of the founding of the *Rio Grande Catholic*. That edition will be published in June. However, if you will indulge me, I would like to share a bit of my family's life over the last 9 weeks.

In late February, my wife, Chrissy, then about 6 months pregnant, and I thought it would be a good idea to take our 3-year-old daughter Annie on a day trip to White Sands. Little did we know, it would be the last outing we would have as a three-person family.

Throughout the day, Chrissy could not shake a terrible headache. We honestly thought nothing of it — just another allergy headache, perhaps? So, we went about our day, had a great time with Annie in the sand, and returned home.

My wife still had this headache throughout the evening, however, and she didn't feel quite right. She then noticed her ankles had swollen to twice their size. Immediately we thought to check her blood pressure, because this was a complication associated with preeclampsia, which Chrissy had during her last pregnancy. Sure enough, the monitor kept delivering bad news: high blood pressure readings. We called our OB/GYN, and his response was not one any pregnant woman wants to hear: "You need to go to the hospital right away."

At this point, Chrissy had only been pregnant for 27 weeks, barely the end of the second trimester. Though we were worried about the health of baby and mother, we still had hope that the



Fernie Ceniceros

doctors merely had to manage her blood pressure. Then, she could come home and take it easy. So, they decided to keep my wife overnight for observation and see what tests would reveal.

After 24 hours of observation, we finally got a diagnosis: preeclampsia again. But this time, the treatment was a surprise to our little family — my wife would have to stay in the hospital for the duration of her pregnancy. The goal was 7 more weeks, to get the baby to her 34th week of pregnancy. And just like that, our family's life got turned upside down.

Chrissy's first 72 hours in the hospital were the scariest, because the doctors could not get her blood pressure down. But after trying different combinations of medication, we started to see the numbers stabilize. Still, there was an altogether different complication we had to figure out — how could Annie see her mom in the hospital? It took a lot of explaining how Mom had to stay in the hospital and couldn't come home for a while. But eventually, Annie was allowed to visit the hospital.

With the help of family and friends, we got through the first

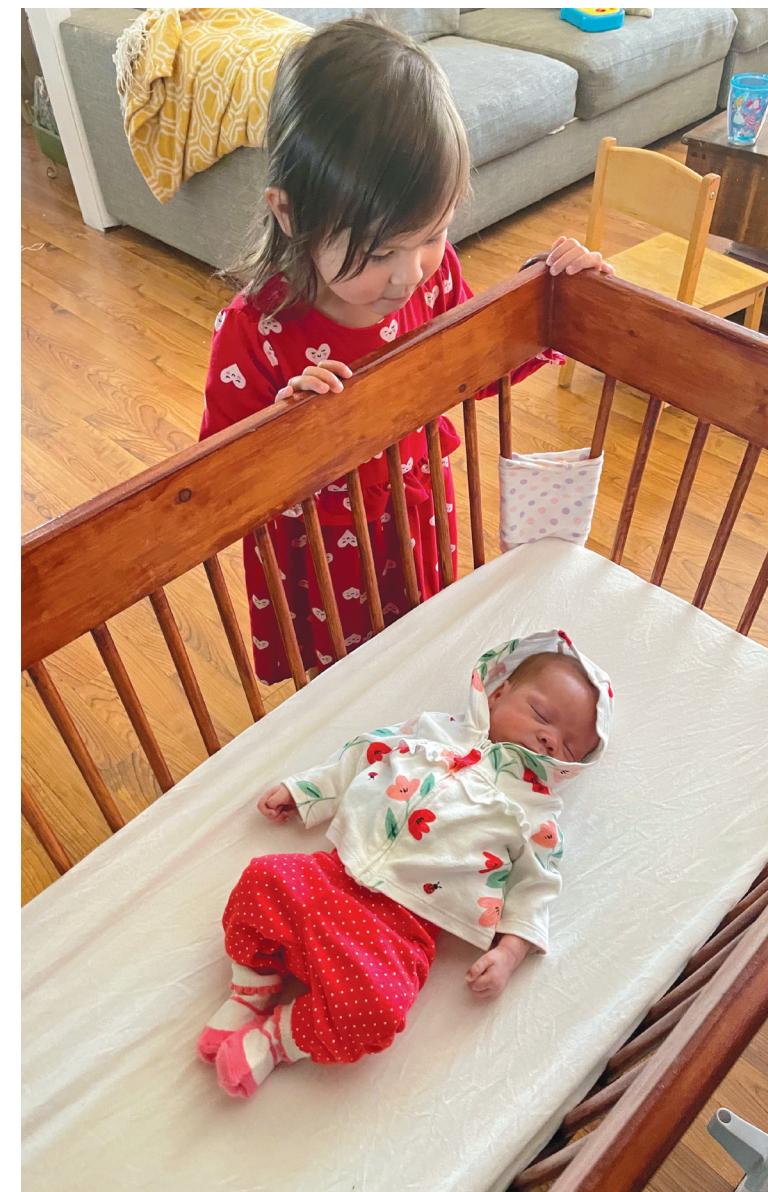
week. Annie and I were able to get a home routine going that bore some resemblance to normalcy. But after about five weeks, our collective patience was tested again.

At 4 a.m. on March 25, my wife called and said she was suffering from severe pain in her abdomen. Immediately, I thought, "It's time. The baby is coming today." I rushed to the hospital, and just a couple hours later, we went from a family of three to a family of four. Eva Mae, "Evie" for short, was born at 32-weeks gestational age on March 25 at 8:12 a.m., weighing 4 lbs., 11 oz.

Initially, Evie was able to breathe on her own. But she soon suffered a pneumothorax, minute ruptures to her lungs, which filled her chest cavity with air pressure that needed to be relieved with tubes on both her sides. She was placed on breathing support for the first week of her life. But signs of hope abounded. On March 27, Evie was baptized and welcomed to the Church. The next day, my wife got to come home. Then, the next part of our journey began — life with a premie baby in the neonatal intensive care unit, where time is measured from update to update.

Yet, as the days progressed, Evie rapidly improved. After the first week, she didn't need to be sedated nor intubated anymore. She gained weight, little by little, and was eventually able to breathe on her own.

On April 24, 9 weeks after Chrissy first went to the hospital and almost one month after Evie was born, she was finally able to



Big sister Annie checks on her new little sister, Evie, sleeping soundly in her crib at home.

come home, and my little family was finally all in one place at one time.

My wife, daughters, and I wish to express our overwhelming gratitude to Bishop Seitz, our family and friends, and everyone

here at the Pastoral Center who endlessly prayed for our little NICU graduate. We absolutely would not have made it without your unwavering support. But we are all doing well, now — all four of us, thanks be to God!

Bienvenida al mundo, Eva Mae

En caso de que se lo pregunten, este artículo no celebra el 30º aniversario de la fundación del *Rio Grande Catholic*. Esa edición se publicará en junio. Sin embargo, si me permiten, me gustaría compartir un poco de la vida de mi familia en las últimas 9 semanas.

A finales de febrero, mi esposa, Chrissy, que estaba embarazada de unos 6 meses, y yo pensamos que sería una buena idea llevar a nuestra hija Annie, de 3 años, de excursión a White Sands. No sabíamos que sería la última excursión que haríamos como familia de tres personas.

A lo largo del día, Chrissy no pudo librarse de un terrible dolor de cabeza. No pensamos en ello — quizás sea otro dolor de cabeza por alergia? Así que seguimos con nuestro día, nos lo pasamos muy bien con Annie en la arena y volvimos a casa.

Sin embargo, mi esposa siguió teniendo ese dolor de cabeza durante toda la tarde y no se sentía del todo bien. Entonces se dio cuenta de que sus tobillos se habían hinchado al doble

de su tamaño. Inmediatamente pensamos en comprobar su presión arterial, porque se trataba de una complicación asociada a la preeclampsia, que Chrissy tuvo durante su último embarazo. Efectivamente, el tensiómetro seguía dando malas noticias: mediciones de la tensión arterial altas. Llamamos a nuestro obstetra/ginecólogo y su respuesta no fue la que ninguna mujer embarazada quiere oír: "Tienes que ir al hospital inmediatamente".

En ese momento, Chrissy sólo llevaba 27 semanas de embarazo, apenas al final del segundo trimestre. Aunque estábamos preocupados por la salud del bebé y de la madre, aún teníamos la esperanza de que los médicos sólo tuvieran que controlar su presión arterial. Luego, podría volver a casa y tomárselo con calma. Así que decidieron mantener a mi esposa toda la noche en observación y ver qué revelaban las pruebas.

Tras 24 horas de observación, por fin tuvimos un diagnóstico: preeclampsia de nuevo. Pero esta vez, el tratamiento fue una

sorpresa para nuestra pequeña familia: mi esposa tendría que permanecer en el hospital durante todo el embarazo. El objetivo era 7 semanas más, para que el bebé llegara a su semana 34 de embarazo. Y así, la vida de nuestra familia dio un vuelco.

Las primeras 72 horas de Chrissy en el hospital fueron las más aterradoras, porque los médicos no conseguían bajarle la tensión. Pero tras probar diferentes combinaciones de medicamentos, empezamos a ver que los números se estabilizaban. Sin embargo, había una complicación totalmente diferente que teníamos que resolver: ¿cómo podía Annie ver a su madre en el hospital? Nos costó mucho explicar que mamá tenía que quedarse en el hospital y que no podía volver a casa durante un tiempo. Pero finalmente, Annie pudo visitar el hospital.

Con la ayuda de la familia y los amigos, superamos la primera semana. Annie y yo pudimos poner en marcha una rutina en casa que se asemejaba a la normalidad. Pero al cabo de unas

cinco semanas, nuestra paciencia colectiva volvió a ponerse a prueba.

A las 4 de la mañana del 25 de marzo, mi esposa llamó y dijo que sufrió un fuerte dolor en el abdomen. Inmediatamente, pensé: "Es la hora. El bebé viene hoy". Me apresuré a ir al hospital y, apenas unas horas después, pasamos de ser una familia de tres a una de cuatro. Eva Mae, "Evie" para abreviar, nació con 32 semanas de edad gestacional el 25 de marzo a las 8:12 de la mañana, con un peso de 4 libras y 11 onzas.

Al principio, Evie era capaz de respirar por sí misma. Pero pronto sufrió un neumotórax, una diminuta rotura en los pulmones, que le llenó la cavidad torácica de una presión de aire que hubo que aliviar con tubos en ambos lados. Estuvo conectada a un sistema de respiración asistida durante su primera semana de vida. Pero abundaban los signos de esperanza. El 27 de marzo, Evie fue bautizada y recibida en la Iglesia. Al día siguiente, mi esposa pudo volver a casa. Enton-

ces, comenzó la siguiente parte de nuestro viaje: la vida con un bebé prematuro en la unidad de cuidados intensivos neonatales, donde el tiempo se mide de actualización en actualización.

Sin embargo, a medida que avanzaban los días, Evie mejoraba rápidamente. Después de la primera semana, ya no era necesario sedarla ni intubarla. Ganó peso, poco a poco, y finalmente fue capaz de respirar por sí misma.

El 24 de abril, 9 semanas después de que Chrissy ingresara por primera vez en el hospital y casi un mes después de que Evie naciera, por fin pudo volver a casa y mi pequeña familia estuvo por fin en un mismo lugar.

Mi esposa, mis hijas y yo deseamos expresar nuestra abrumadora gratitud al Obispo Seitz, a nuestra familia y amigos, y a todos aquí en el Centro Pastoral que rezaron sin cesar por nuestra pequeña graduada de la UCIN. No lo habríamos logrado sin su apoyo incondicional. Pero ahora todos estamos bien, los cuatro, ¡gracias a Dios!

How Can We Sustain the Spring?

In light of current events that can make it difficult to recognize the victory of Christ in the midst of our trials, I updated this reflection from a number of years ago.

The long days of winter are behind us. Spring is definitely here. Summer will soon be upon us. See how the dead brown earth has come back to life. Roses and cactus flowers abound. Once barren trees have clothed themselves in a mantle of green.

So it has been in our spiritual journey as well. The long dark days of penance, fasting and prayer that marked our Lent have been replaced by the brightness of Easter glory. We, who have tearfully faced our failures to love and to serve the Lord and one another, now find ourselves lifted up, restored, forgiven, reconciled and filled with a joy and peace that opens before us a whole new vista.

The rapture of this recog-

nition wells up within us and issues from our mouths in cries of "Alleluia! He is Risen!" All creation echoes our song. Easter lilies trumpet the acclamation. Birds returning from the winter pilgrimage pick up the refrain. Animals that have shivered through dark cold nights scurry about rejoicing in the warmth of the sun. Yes, all creation shimmers with new light and life.

If we are so fortunate to be caught up in this wonder, to hear this Alleluia song of creation, we will long for it to go on into eternity. It is a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a sweet taste of the ecstasy to which God calls us. But as this passing time unfolds, we will begin to see that this is not yet our forever — that this frail in-between in which we live cannot sustain our Paschal elation.

We all had to face our own mortality and that of those whom we love during this past year of pandemic. Now with the sud-

den death of Fr. Trini Fuentez, the rector of the Cathedral, that temporality in which we live confronts us even more urgently. It clings to us and attempts to keep our eyes fixed on things of earth rather than the in-breaking of glorious heavenly realities.

In fact, as strange as it may sound, we may soon find ourselves longing for the simple certainties of our Lenten winter. The penitential acts and the service that characterized the former season will seem somehow easier to maintain. Alleluia requires more energy. It is more foreign to our sentiments than our former sad refrains.

So, the question arises, where do we go from here? There is no going back to winter; how can we sustain the spring? This is a question with which the Apostles and other disciples struggled after they emerged into the sunlight from the reclusion of the upper room. They too asked, "How do



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

we live in this 'now' when 'now' is not what it was, but not yet what it will be?"

Their answer was to develop a whole new way to live in the midst of the world. For them this meant to share their food and everything they had, to meet regularly for the "Breaking of the Bread," the Eucharist, and to join their voices in praising God (see Acts 2:46–47). After the unparalleled joy that came with Christ's Resurrection they knew that ordinary life would have to

once again impinge and yet, in another sense, life would never be "ordinary" again.

So it must be for us. Christ has indeed Risen, conquering our sins, removing our shame! He has ushered in for those who seek him a spring that will never end. Do not allow your former life to claim you. *"For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory"* (Col. 3:3).

¿Cómo podemos sostener la primavera?

A la luz de los acontecimientos actuales que pueden dificultar el reconocimiento de la victoria de Cristo en medio de nuestras pruebas, he actualizado esta reflexión de hace unos años.

Los largos días de invierno han quedado atrás. La primavera está definitivamente aquí. El verano pronto estará sobre nosotros. Mira cómo la tierra marrón y muerta ha vuelto a la vida. Abundan las rosas y las flores de cactus. Los árboles, antes desnudos, se han revestido de un manto verde.

Así ha sido también en nuestro viaje espiritual. Los largos y oscuros días de penitencia, ayuno y oración que marcaron nuestra Cuaresma han sido sustituidos por el brillo de la gloria pascual. Nosotros, que hemos afrontado con lágrimas nuestros fracasos en el amor y en el servicio al Señor

y a los demás, nos encontramos ahora levantados, restaurados, perdonados, reconciliados y llenos de una alegría y una paz que abre ante nosotros un panorama totalmente nuevo.

El éxtasis de este reconocimiento brota dentro de nosotros y sale de nuestras bocas en gritos de "¡Aleluya! Ha resucitado". Toda la creación se hace eco de nuestro canto. Los lirios de pascua anuncian la aclamación. Los pájaros que regresan adoptan el estribillo. Los animales que han pasado noches frías se alegran del calor del sol. Sí, toda la creación brilla con nueva luz y vida.

Si somos tan afortunados como para quedar atrapados en toda esta maravilla, para escuchar este canto de aleluya de la creación, anhelaremos que continúe en la eternidad. Es un atisbo de felicidad celestial, un dulce sabor

del éxtasis al que Dios nos llama. Pero a medida que el tiempo que pasa se desarrolla, empezaremos a ver que éste no es todavía nuestro para siempre, que este frágil intermedio en el que vivimos no puede sostener nuestra euforia pascual.

Todos hemos tenido que enfrentarnos a nuestra propia mortalidad y a la de nuestros seres queridos durante esta pandemia. Ahora, con la repentina muerte del Padre Trini Fuentez, rector de la Catedral, esa temporalidad en la que vivimos nos enfrenta con mayor urgencia. Se aferra a nosotros e intenta mantener nuestra mirada fija en las cosas terrenales en lugar de las gloriosas realidades celestiales.

De hecho, por extraño que parezca, es posible que pronto nos encontremos añorando las sencillas certezas de nuestro invierno cuaresmal. Los actos

penitenciales y el servicio que caracterizaban el tiempo anterior parecerán de alguna manera más fáciles de mantener. El aleluya requiere más energía. Es más ajeno a nuestros sentimientos que nuestros anteriores estribillos tristes.

Entonces, surge la pregunta: ¿a dónde vamos a partir de aquí? No se puede volver al invierno; ¿cómo podemos sostener la primavera? Esta es una pregunta con la que los apóstoles y otros discípulos lucharon después de salir a la luz del sol desde la reclusión del aposento alto. También ellos se preguntaron: "¿Cómo vivir en este 'ahora' cuando el 'ahora' no es lo que era, pero tampoco lo que será?".

Su respuesta fue desarrollar una forma totalmente nueva de vivir en medio del mundo. Para ellos esto significaba compartir su comida y todo lo que

tenían, reunirse regularmente para la "fracción del pan", la Eucaristía, y unir sus voces para alabar a Dios (ver Hechos 2:46–47). Después de la alegría sin parangón que supuso la Resurrección de Cristo, sabían que la vida ordinaria tendría que volver a incidir y, sin embargo, en otro sentido, la vida no volvería a ser "ordinaria".

Así debe ser para nosotros. Cristo ha resucitado, venciendo nuestros pecados, eliminando nuestra vergüenza. Ha inaugurado para los que le buscan una primavera que no tendrá fin. No permitas que tu vida anterior te reclame.

"Porque han muerto, y su vida está escondida con Cristo en Dios. Y cuando se manifieste Cristo, la vida de ustedes, entonces también ustedes serán manifestados con él en gloria" (Col 3:3).

THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

Celebrating 30 Years serving the Diocese of El Paso

THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC (ISSN#1079-9621) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by the Office of Communications, Diocese of El Paso, 499 St. Matthews St., El Paso, TX 79907, Phone: (915) 872-8414, Fax: (915) 872-8435. "PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT EL PASO TX." POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: **THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC**, 499 St. Matthews St., El Paso TX, 79907

THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC is a monthly newspaper assisting the Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso by communicating the events and themes of the faith life of the local and universal church through news reports, features, columns and photographs. Articles and photographs become the property of **THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC**. If photos are on loan to the newspaper, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for their return.

Printer - PDX Printing.

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Beloved Cathedral Rector Dies After Battling Cancer

By Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

Just days after sharing news that Fr. Trinidad "Trini" Fuentez, rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral in downtown El Paso, had been hospitalized, suffering from the advanced stages of cancer, the diocese was saddened to announce his passing May 3 at the age of 69.

Born in Pecos, Texas, Fr. Trini was one of 15 children of Daniel and Joaquina Fuentez. He faithfully served the Diocese of El Paso for more than 40 years as a priest at St. Joseph's Parish in El Paso, San Antonio de Padua Parish, St. Joseph's Parish in Fort Davis, Christ the King Parish in Balmorhea, Santa Lucia Parish, San Elizario Mission and Chapel, Most Holy Trinity Parish, and



Queen of Peace Parish. He had been rector of the cathedral since 2015.

"The Diocese is in mourning over the loss of this beloved

priest," said Bishop Mark Seitz. "We ask the entire El Paso community to pray for his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed."

Fr. Trini began his studies at St. Charles Seminary in El Paso along with several classmates from Pecos that included Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas, the current pastor of St. Mark's. He then completed his seminary formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, along with Msgr. David Fierro, now the pastor of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish.

In addition to his priestly ministry in numerous parishes, he also served as a defender of the bond at the Diocesan Tribunal; as a member of the Presbyteral Council, Personnel Board and Diocesan Finance Council; and as a vicar of several regional vicariates throughout his priesthood. He was also the diocese's vocation director for six years.

"His warmth and pastoral

sensibility will be greatly missed, not just in his cathedral parish, but throughout the diocese," Bishop Seitz said. "He was a cherished friend and respected brother to many of our priests, all who have fond memories of his fraternal concern. We pray that the Lord will give him the reward of his labors, the fullness of life promised to those who preach His holy Gospel."

The cathedral will continue to be served by its other priests, Fr. Miguel Perez and Fr. Alfonso Bonilla, until a new rector can be named in coming weeks, Bishop Seitz said.

Funeral and memorial services were still being planned in the days after his death, but were expected to be announced and live-streamed on the diocese's social media and webpage.

Muere el querido rector tras luchar contra el cáncer

Por Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

Apenas unos días después de compartir la noticia de que el P. Trinidad "Trini" Fuentez, rector de la catedral de San Patricio en el centro de El Paso, había sido hospitalizado, sufriendo de las etapas avanzadas del cáncer, la diócesis se entristeció al anunciar su fallecimiento el 3 de mayo a la edad de 69 años.

Nacido en Pecos, Texas, el P. Trini era uno de los 15 hijos de Daniel y Joaquina Fuentez. Sirvió fielmente a la Diócesis de El Paso durante más de 40 años

como sacerdote en la Parroquia de San José en El Paso, la Parroquia de San Antonio de Padua, la Parroquia de San José en Fort Davis, la Parroquia de Cristo Rey en Balmorhea, la Parroquia de Santa Lucía, la Misión y Capilla de San Elizario, la Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad y la Parroquia de la Reina de la Paz. Había sido rector de la catedral desde 2015.

"La Diócesis está de luto por el fallecimiento de este querido sacerdote", dijo el obispo Mark Seitz. "Pedimos a toda la comunidad de El Paso que rece por su alma y por las almas de todos los

fieles difuntos".

El P. Trini comenzó sus estudios en el Seminario de San Carlos en El Paso junto con varios compañeros de Pecos que incluían a Monseñor Arturo Bañuelas, actual párroco de San Marcos. Luego completó su formación en el Pontificio Colegio Josephinum de Columbus, Ohio, junto a Monseñor David Fierro, actual párroco de la Parroquia de Santa Francisca Javier Cabrini.

Además de su ministerio sacerdotal en numerosas parroquias, también ejerció como defensor del vínculo en el Tribunal Diocesano; como miembro del

Consejo Presbiteral, de la Junta de Personal y del Consejo Financiero Diocesano; y como vicario de varias vicarías regionales a lo largo de su sacerdocio. También fue director de vocaciones de la diócesis durante seis años.

"Su calidez y sensibilidad pastoral se echarán mucho de menos, no sólo en su parroquia catedralicia, sino en toda la diócesis", dijo el obispo Seitz. "Era un amigo muy querido y un hermano respetado por muchos de nuestros sacerdotes, todos los cuales guardan un buen recuerdo de su caridad fraternal. Rezamos para que el Señor le dé la recom-

pensa de sus trabajos, la plenitud de vida prometida a los que predicán su santo Evangelio."

La catedral seguirá siendo atendida por sus otros sacerdotes, P. Miguel Pérez y P. Alfonso Bonilla, hasta que se pueda nombrar un nuevo rector en las próximas semanas, dijo el obispo.

Los servicios funerarios y memoriales también se estaban planificando en los días posteriores a su muerte, pero se esperaba que se anunciaran y se transmitieran en directo en las redes sociales y la página web de la diócesis.



ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Fr. Ron Sibugan, AA	May 2, 2015
Fr. Mateus Pol, OSM	May 3, 2018
Fr. Miguel Alcuino	May 4, 1979
Fr. Federico Franco, OSM	May 4, 1989
Fr. Hector Chicas	May 11, 1996
Fr. Fulgencio Mayorga (Extern)	May 16, 1998
Bishop Mark J. Seitz	May 17, 1980
Fr. Miguel Briseno, OFM Conv.	May 19, 1990
Fr. Kevin O'Neill, FSSP	May 19, 2012
Fr. Donald J. Adamski, OFM Conv.	May 24, 1975
Fr. Michael L. Lewis	May 24, 2019
Fr. Miguel Perez	May 24, 2019
Fr. Edward Paul Roden-Lucero	May 25, 1982
Fr. Edward Carpenter, Jr.	May 25, 1995
Fr. Jose DelaCruz Longoria, MNM	May 26, 1996
Fr. Matthew Robert Vierno, FSSP	May 26, 2016
Fr. Cong Chi Vo	May 26, 2017
Fr. Francisco Hernandez	May 27, 2016
Fr. James "Buzz" Hall	May 29, 1970
Fr. Carl Quebedeaux, CMF	May 29, 1982
Fr. Benjamin Flores-Ruiz	May 29, 1993
Fr. Frank R. Lopez	May 29, 1993
Fr. Ralph Solis Jr.	May 29, 1993
Fr. John Telles	May 31, 1975



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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Above: Deacon Cesar Garcia-Ortega assists Bishop Mark Seitz as he incenses the altar during the ordination Mass.

Right: Bishop Mark imposes his hands on Sergio Legareta Carrasco during the ordination rite.

Below right: Bishop Mark receives the promise of obedience from Astry Déraly during the ordination rite: "May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment."

Photos by Al Baeza



Continued From Page 1

heart of your service to the people of God."

After the candidates' promises and the singing of the Litany of the Saints, Bishop Seitz layed his hands on each candidate, invoking the Holy Spirit, before chanting the Prayer of Ordination. Then, officially deacons, each of the five were vested in the deacon's stole and dalmatic before being presented with the Book of Gospels, a symbol of one of the deacon's most important liturgical roles: to preach.

"That you are all sitting here is a real sign of the the One who has entered into your life and called you to this ministry," Bishop Seitz said. "Don't doubt for a minute that he won't give you the grace and the strength to accomplish all that he has called you to do."

Each new deacon said they were grateful to God for calling them to serve in the diocese and to the many people who have warmly welcomed them.

"Thank you also, Bishop, not just for being an example for us, but also for receiving many of us from many different countries, making us feel welcome, creating a home for us," Legareta said.

"This calling is easy to hear, but difficult to live. But today



it has been confirmed," Déraly added.

"In 2016, I was told it could be difficult to become part of the diocese, because I didn't know anyone and no one knew me," Arévalo said. "But since then, thanks to the help of priests, Bishop Mark, and others, but most of all thanks to the grace and love of God, I feel very accepted here in the Diocese of El Paso."



Continuado de la Pagina 1

impuso las manos a cada uno de ellos, invocando al Espíritu Santo, antes de entonar la oración de ordenación. A continuación, los cinco diáconos fueron vestidos con la estola y la dalmática antes de recibir el Evangelario, símbolo de una de las funciones litúrgicas más importantes del diácono: predicar.

"Que todos ustedes estén sen-

tados aquí es un verdadero signo de Aquel que ha entrado en su vida y los ha llamado a este ministerio", dijo el obispo Seitz. "No duden que Él les dará la gracia y la fuerza para cumplir con todo lo que los ha llamado a hacer".

Cada uno de los nuevos diáconos dijo estar agradecido a Dios por haberlos llamado a servir en la diócesis y a las muchas personas que los han acogido calurosamente.

Above: Bishop Mark presents José William Arévalo Narváez the Book of Gospels during the ordination rite: "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

Left: The candidates for ordination lie prostrate before the altar during the Litany of the Saints: "Sanctify by your blessing these men we present, for in our judgment we believe them worthy to exercise sacred ministries."

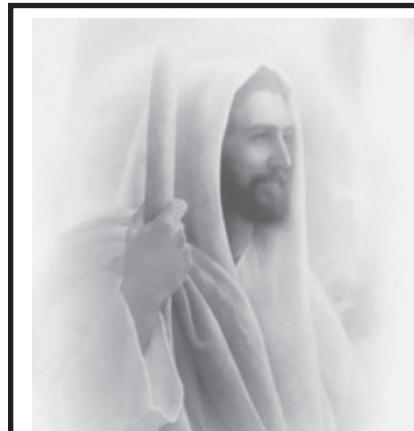
Below left: Edroud Jean kisses the deacon stole before Msgr. David Fierro vests him with it and the deacon's dalmatic during the ordination rite.

Photos by Fr. Miguel Briseño

"Gracias también, señor obispo, no sólo por ser un ejemplo para nosotros, sino también por recibir a muchos de nosotros de muchos países diferentes, haciéndonos sentir bienvenidos, creando un hogar para nosotros", dijo Legareta.

"Esta llamada es fácil de escuchar, pero difícil de vivir. Pero hoy se ha confirmado", añadió Déraly.

"En 2016, me dijeron que podía ser difícil formar parte de la diócesis, porque no conocía a nadie y nadie me conocía a mí", dijo Arévalo. "Pero desde entonces, gracias a la ayuda de los sacerdotes, del obispo Mark y de otras personas, pero sobre todo gracias a la gracia y al amor de Dios, me siento muy aceptada aquí en la Diócesis de El Paso."



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Marian Shrines Unite in May to Pray the Rosary to End Pandemic

Vatican News

Marian shrines around the world are commemorating the Marian month of May by reciting the Rosary each day to invoke the Blessed Virgin Mary's intercession to end to the pandemic and resume social and work-related activities, Pope Francis announced at a general audience on May 5.

As part of an initiative promoted by the Dicastery for the New Evangelization, the praying of the Rosary will unite 30 shrines around the world throughout the month of May.

Below is the list of shrines where the Rosary is prayed each day at 10:00 a.m. El Paso time. Links to watch live, or afterwards on demand, can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3eoVjx5>

May 1: St Peter's Basilica (Madonna del Soccorso), Vatican City — For the entire world wounded by the pandemic.

Also May 1: The Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady (Our Lady of Walsingham, Walsingham, England — For all the deceased.

May 2: The Sanctuary of Jesus the Saviour and Mother Mary, Elele, Nigeria — For all those who have not been able to say goodbye to their deceased loved ones.

May 3: The Monastery of Jasna Góra (Black Madonna of Częstochowa), Częstochowa, Poland — For all those infected with the coronavirus and all the sick.

May 4: The Basilica of the

Annunciation, Nazareth, Israel — For all expectant women and their unborn children.

May 5: The Shrine of our Lady of the Rosary, Namyang, South Korea — For all children and adolescents.

May 6: The National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida, Aparecida, Brazil — For all young people.

May 7: The Cathedral of Antipolo (Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage), Antipolo, Philippines — For all families.

May 8: The Basilica of Luján (Our Lady of Luján), Luján, Argentina — For all communication workers.

May 9: The Basilica of the Holy House (Our Lady of Loreto), Loreto, Italy — For all seniors.

May 10: The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Knock, Knock, Ireland — For all people with disabilities.

May 11: The Shrine of Our Lady of Banneux (Virgin of the Poor), Banneux, Belgium — For all the poor, the homeless, and the economically distressed.

May 12: The Basilica of Our Lady of Africa, Algiers, Algeria — For all people who live alone and those who have lost hope.

May 13: The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima, Fátima, Portugal — For all prisoners.

May 14: The Basilica of Our Lady of Health, Vailankanni, India — For all scientists and medical research institutions.

May 15: The Shrine of Our Lady of Medjugorje (Our Lady of Peace), Medjugorje, Bosnia —

For all migrants.

May 16: The Cathedral Church and Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Mother of God, Help of Christians (St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, Australia — For all victims of violence and human trafficking.

May 17: The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. — For all world leaders and for all heads of international organizations.

May 18: The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, Lourdes, France — For all doctors and nurses.

May 19: Mother Mary's House, Ephesus, Turkey — For all people at war and for world peace.

May 20: The National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba — For all pharmacists and health care personnel.

May 21: Immaculate Conception Cathedral (Our Lady of Nagasaki), Nagasaki, Japan — For all social workers.

May 22: Santa Maria de Montserrat (Virgin of Montserrat), Montserrat, Spain — For all volunteers.

May 23: The Basilica of Notre-Dame-du-Cap, Trois-Rivières, Canada — For all law enforcement and military personnel and for all firefighters.

May 24: Our Lady of Lourdes, Nyaunglebin, Myanmar — For all those who provide essential services.

May 25: The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Blessed

Virgin of Ta' Pinu, Għarb, Malta — For all teachers, students and educators.

May 26: The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City, Mexico — For all workers and entrepreneurs.

May 27: The Shrine of the Mother of God of Zarvanytsia, Zarvanytsia, Ukraine — For all the unemployed.

May 28: The Shrine of Our Lady of Altötting (Black Madonna of Altötting), Altötting,

Germany — For the Holy Father, bishops, presbyters, and deacons.

May 29: The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, Harissa, Lebanon — For all consecrated men and women.

May 30: The Pontifical Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii, Pompeii, Italy — For the Church.

May 31: The Vatican Gardens, Vatican City — For the end of the pandemic and the resumption of our social and economic life.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

Msgr. Victor Kayrouz (Extern)	May 1
Fr. Nam Kim (Extern)	May 2
Fr. Jose DelaCruz Longoria, MNM	May 3
Fr. Flavio Alberto Hernandez, OFM	May 7
Fr. Miguel Alcuino	May 8
Fr. Jose Alfredo Ramirez, OFM	May 10
Fr. Miguel Perez	May 11
Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas	May 12
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Priest Reflects on His Visa Experience: 'You Must Not Lose Hope'

By Sandra Ramirez
DMRS Communications Officer

We would like to congratulate Father Juan Victor Gamiño Trejo on officially becoming a Lawful Permanent Resident with the help of Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services. Fr. Juan Victor is originally from Mexico and came to serve in the Diocese of El Paso as a religious worker, which allowed him to work in the U.S., apply for a green card, and eventually apply to become a U.S. citizen.

Fr. Juan Victor faced many obstacles throughout this process that extended nearly two and a half years due to delays at U.S. Customs and Immigration Services, or USCIS. For a short period of time, Fr. Juan Victor was waiting on work authorization documents that prevented him from receiving a salary in the U.S. However, he remained committed to his calling within the Diocese of El Paso and donated his time as a religious worker. It was a stressful time for Fr. Juan Victor, which he said also took a



Fr. Juan Victor Gamiño Trejo shows the visa he was able to obtain with the help of Annabel Veloz, left, a representative in the DMRS Religious Workers unit. Photo courtesy DMRS

toll on him personally.

"During that time, I was unable to leave the country to visit my mother and my family in

Mexico," Gamiño Trejo said. "I was unable to renew my driver's license. This was somewhat stressful for me. I was worried."

After about a year, Fr. Juan Victor received a notice that his application for residency had been denied because there were no visas available. DMRS Deputy Director Anna Hey determined it was improperly denied and applied to reopen the case, which required another fee to be paid to USCIS.

Fr. Juan Victor recalls reflecting on how difficult the process was for him despite being a religious worker who is at an advantage. He thought about how much harder it must be for people applying without that benefit.

"They live in fear, unable to trust the situations in which they are safe," he said. "This situation helped me understand what other immigrants experience while they wait and hope for their status to be approved."

Father Juan Victor remembered when he received the call from Annabel Veloz, a representative in the DMRS Religious Workers unit, who notified him that his documents had finally arrived. He said it was a joyous

and equally emotional moment that he jokes about now.

"When Annabel called to notify me that my documents had arrived, she was already crying. I told her, 'I was going to cry, but since I heard you crying, now I don't have to,'" he joked.

Fr. Juan Victor credits the positive outcome of this process to his faith throughout the process, as well as the people in the Diocese and those in his church community who were praying for him.

For those who are undergoing a lengthy immigration process and are also worried about the outcome, Father Juan Victor offered this advice, "It requires patience, understanding and you must not lose hope."

If you or someone you know have questions about an immigration case, contact Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services at 915-532-3975 and dial 0 to speak to the operator to schedule a consultation. You may be eligible for free legal services.

You can read more at www.dmrs-ep.org.

Padre y su visado: 'No hay que perder la esperanza'

Por Sandra Ramirez
DMRS Communications Officer

Nos gustaría felicitar al Padre Juan Victor Gamiño Trejo por convertirse oficialmente en un Residente Permanente Legal con la ayuda de los Servicios Diocesanos para Migrantes y Refugiados. El Padre Juan Víctor es originario de México y llegó para servir a la Diócesis de El Paso como trabajador religioso, lo que le permitió trabajar en los Estados Unidos y solicitar la ciudadanía estadounidense.

El P. Juan Víctor se enfrentó a muchos obstáculos a lo largo de este proceso que se prolongó casi dos años y medio debido a los retrasos en el Servicio de Aduanas e Inmigración de Estados Unidos, o USCIS. Durante un corto período de tiempo, el P. Juan Víctor estuvo esperando los documentos de autorización de trabajo que le impedían recibir un salario en los EE.UU. Fue una época estresante para el padre Juan Víctor, que, según él, también le pasó factura personalmente.

"Durante ese tiempo yo no pude salir del país para visitar a mi mama y a mi familia en México. Los últimos meses no podía firmar cheques, no podía recibir un pago, no podía renovar mi licencia entonces me estresaba un poco, me preocupaba", dice Gamiño Trejo.

Al cabo de un año, el P. Juan Víctor recibió un aviso de que su solicitud de residencia había sido denegada porque no había visas disponibles. La subdirectora del DMRS, Anna Hey, determinó que había sido denegada indebidamente y solicitó la reapertura del caso, lo que requería el pago de otra tasa al USCIS.

El P. Juan Víctor recuerda que

reflexionó sobre lo difícil que fue el proceso para él, a pesar de ser un trabajador religioso con ventaja, y pensó en lo mucho más difícil que debe ser para las personas que solicitan sin ese beneficio.

"Viven con miedo, sin poder confiar en las situaciones de seguridad. Esta situación me ayudó a entender lo que experimentan otros inmigrantes mientras esperan y confían en que su estatus sea aprobado", dijo.

El padre Juan Víctor recordó cuando recibió la llamada de Annabel Veloz, representante de la unidad de Trabajadores Religiosos de la DMRS, que le notificó que sus documentos habían llegado por fin. Dijo que fue un momento alegre y emotivo a partes iguales del que ahora bromea.

"El día que Annabel me avisó que ya había llegado, hasta ella estaba llorando. Le dije: 'Yo iba a llorar pero ya te escuché llorar a ti, mejor ya no llores', recuerda.

El P. Juan Víctor atribuye el resultado positivo de este proceso a su fe a lo largo del mismo, así como a las personas de la diócesis y de su comunidad eclesiástica que rezaron por él. Para aquellos que están pasando por un largo proceso de inmigración y también están preocupados por el resultado, el Padre Juan Víctor ofreció este consejo: "Se requiere paciencia, comprensión y no hay que perder la esperanza."

Si usted o alguien que conoce tiene preguntas sobre un caso de inmigración, póngase en contacto con los Servicios Diocesanos para Migrantes y Refugiados en el 915-532-3975.

Puede leer más en www.dmrs-ep.org

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Interviewing for the Most Important Job



Janet M. Crowe

Now, then, Ms. Garcia, let's begin this interview," stated the dignified man who sat erect and balanced a notepad on his knee while staring with an intimidating glare at the young woman.

"Yes, sir," responded Ms. Garcia, trying to sound much more relaxed than she felt.

"You do understand, of course, that this is a most important position," began the interviewer, "and your answers will determine if you are qualified for this renowned profession."

"Yes, sir," answered Ms. Garcia whose throat had suddenly become very dry.

"First, list your weaknesses in detail from largest to smallest," directed the interviewer.

"My weaknesses?" Ms. Garcia said, pausing to take a deep breath. "Well, sometimes I am a little unsure of myself, but I am sure that I could do this job well. And then..."

"Unsure of yourself? So, you lack confidence in your abilities? How can we be assured of your qualifications if you, yourself, do not believe in your own skills?" blasted the interviewer.

"Oh, I'm certain that I can do this job," Ms. Garcia quickly

replied.

"Let's try another question," the interviewer continued. "If you are granted this amazing opportunity, where do you see yourself in five years?"

"In five years, I will definitely be more self-confident and competent to do this job," began Ms. Garcia.

"Hmm," interrupted the interviewer. "Don't you realize that each day will bring new challenges and different problems. In five years, your duties will have changed as drastically as the seasons of winter and summer are opposites. In ten years, you will be doing none of the duties you performed at the beginning but will be expected to be an expert in your field."

"Yes, I understand that this is a challenging position," Ms. Garcia answered, "but I have always wanted to do this job when the time was right in my life."

"When the time is right in your life!" exploded the interviewer. "There is never a right time or a good time or a bad time, there is just time. If you wait for the right time, something will always delay it. To do this job, you must simply accept that it is happening whether you are ready or not. Can you do that?"

"I think so, maybe," stammered Ms. Garcia.

"You probably want to know about the salary, perks and benefits," the interviewer said. "The salary is minimal, in fact, it is nonexistent. You will have to find another method of making money to pay your bills. How-



ever, the benefits and perks are breathtaking. There will be heartbreaks, but the absolute delight and happiness will far outweigh the hard times. Once given this position, you will continue for the rest of your life even after your projects have become a success and appear to no longer need you. There will be tears as well as laughter, sometimes both at the same time. You will never be the same person, but you will become a better person for just doing the job."

"Oh," said Ms. Garcia, feeling quite overwhelmed at these disclosures.

"Now, what questions do you have about the job?" asked the interviewer.

"You mentioned that my duties will constantly be changing," Ms. Garcia said. "Will there be any training for these new duties?"

"Training! Ha!" laughed the interviewer. "You will learn as

you go along or you won't. It's up to you. Any and all skills will be learned as you try your best to do what you feel is the proper response to the situation. It's all on-the-job training, if you want to put a label on it."

"Maybe I am not the right person for this job, after all," sighed Ms. Garcia.

"Too late, my dear," said the interviewer quietly. "You've already been hired. Today, actually, right now, you are already on the job. Congratulations, this will be the most demanding but most rewarding position you could ever imagine. Be happy! You are now a mother."

"What? No, that can't be, I'm sure I'm not ready," stammered Ms. Garcia.

"That's the first step in your new job," assured the interviewer as he patted her shoulder.

"Realizing that no one is ever ready, even those who think they are. They aren't. No one is ever

ready for the amazing joys that motherhood entails nor for the frequent feelings of uncertainty of whether you are doing a good job. However, you will learn that it is definitely worth it. As I said, the benefits far outweigh the difficulties."

"How do I know what to do? What do I do first? I can't do this!" wailed Ms. Garcia.

"Yes, you can," the interviewer reassured her. "Love with all your heart. Do your best. Accept help when you need it. And that is where the next step of your new job begins. Let me introduce you to some people who want to help you become a wonderful mother and who want to help by protecting your baby from any harm."

"I thought you said I would get no help, just on-the-job training?"

"Learning daily on the job, yes, you will do that. You are strong and capable. But there are also people who are willing to help you become the best mother you can possibly be. There are many organizations who genuinely care for mothers and their babies, and there are even more people who keep those organizations operating for the good of God's precious children. Let's meet some of them."

The young woman looks up as the door opens.

Who will she see entering the room to help her become the mother God has planned for her to be?

Will you walk through that door and offer your help?

Special Collections / Collectas Especiales

Collection for the Major Seminary Fund Appeal

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, May 8 and Sunday, May 9, 2021, for the Major Seminarians Program.

One of the most pressing needs in the Diocese of El Paso is the recruitment and education of seminarians. The purpose of the Major Seminarian Office is to provide for the pastoral care of the diocesan seminarians and offer them support and guidance once they have entered one of the major seminaries.

One of the greatest success stories of our Diocese is its efforts in the last few years in increasing the number of seminarians who will dedicate their lives to the service of the church and God's people. Currently the Diocese of El Paso has 28 seminarians studying at Assumption Seminary (San Antonio), Mundelein Seminary (Chicago), St. Mary's Seminary (Houston), Conception College in Missouri, and Sacred Heart Seminary in Milwaukee. The Diocese expects a total of 30 seminarians during the next academic year starting in August. The Diocese must cover the expenses of the students' tuition, room and board, and medical insurance.

On the weekend of May 8 and 9 please take the opportunity to contribute to the education of the future priests of the Diocese. Thank you for your support.

Collection for the Catholic Communications Campaign

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16, 2021 for the Catholic Communications Campaign.

The *Rio Grande Catholic* and the Catholic Communications Campaign share an important mission in the Church; to contribute to the process of evangelization by fostering activities in relation to television, radio and other media, and through special projects of the Catholic press.

The Catholic Communications Campaign provides funds for national and diocesan communications projects. Contributions to this campaign works in two levels. Half of all donations are given to bishops to support communications in their dioceses. This means that the *Rio Grande Catholic* receives 50 percent of the donations that our parishioners give to this collection. The remaining 50 percent supports national television, radio, internet, and print programs that reach beyond the diocesan level.

On the weekend of May 15 and 16, 2021 please take the opportunity to contribute to the Catholic Communications Campaign. Thank you for your support.

Colecta para los Seminaristas Mayores

Habrá una Ofrenda Especial el sábado, 8 y domingo 9 de mayo del 2021 para los Seminaristas Mayores.

Una de las necesidades más urgentes de la Diócesis de El Paso es el reclutamiento y la educación de seminaristas. El propósito del Programa de los Seminaristas Mayores es el de proporcionar el cuidado pastoral a los seminaristas diocesanos y de ofrecerles guía y apoyo una vez que han ingresado a uno de los seminarios mayores.

Unas de las historias más impactantes de nuestra Diócesis a sido el esfuerzo en estos últimos años de incrementar el número de seminaristas que consagran sus vidas al servicio para la iglesia y la de los feligreses. Actualmente hay 28 seminaristas estudiando en el Seminario de Asunción (San Antonio), Seminario Mundelein (Chicago), Seminario Santa María (Houston), Seminario Concepción (Missouri) y Sagrado Corazón en Milwaukee. La Diócesis espera un total de 30 seminaristas para agosto de este año. La Diócesis los ayuda económicamente con los gastos del seminario, su alimentación, hospedaje y seguro médico.

Por favor dé se la oportunidad de contribuir a la educación de los futuros sacerdotes de nuestra Diócesis. Muchas gracias por su apoyo.

Colecta para la Campaña Católica de Comunicaciones

Habrá una Ofrenda Especial el sábado, 15 y domingo 16 de mayo del 2021 para la Campaña Católica de Comunicaciones.

Nuestro periódico diocesano, el *Río Grande Catholic*, y la Campaña Católica de Comunicaciones comparten una importante misión en la Iglesia; para contribuir al proceso de evangelizar fomentando las actividades con relación a la televisión, el radio y otros medios, y a través de proyectos especiales de la prensa Católica.

Esta colecta provee fondos para los proyectos de comunicaciones nacionales y diocesanos. Las contribuciones que los fieles hacen a la colecta de la Campaña Católica de Comunicaciones funcionan a dos niveles. Los obispos destinan la mitad de lo recaudado para sostener las comunicaciones de la Iglesia en sus propias diócesis. Esto significa que el *Río Grande Catholic* recibe 50 por ciento de las donaciones hechas por nuestros feligreses a esta colecta. La otra mitad se destina a sostener las actividades de la Iglesia a nivel nacional en televisión, radio, Internet y material impreso, más allá del alcance del nivel de las diócesis.

En el fin de semana 15 y 16 de mayo, por favor dé se la oportunidad de contribuir a esta colecta. Muchas gracias por su apoyo.



Padre Wilson Cuevas

Nacemos y vivimos para aprender; es decir, nacimos para crecer espiritualmente. Todo lo que hagamos en la vida, nuestros logros, las personas que amamos, todo lo que nos rodea, nos ayudan a encontrar el sentido de nuestra vida: Se nace, se vive, se llora, se ríe y cualquier cosa que sentimos o percibimos, se hace con el objetivo de adelantar en el camino del crecimiento espiritual, aprendiendo de cada experiencia que se tiene.

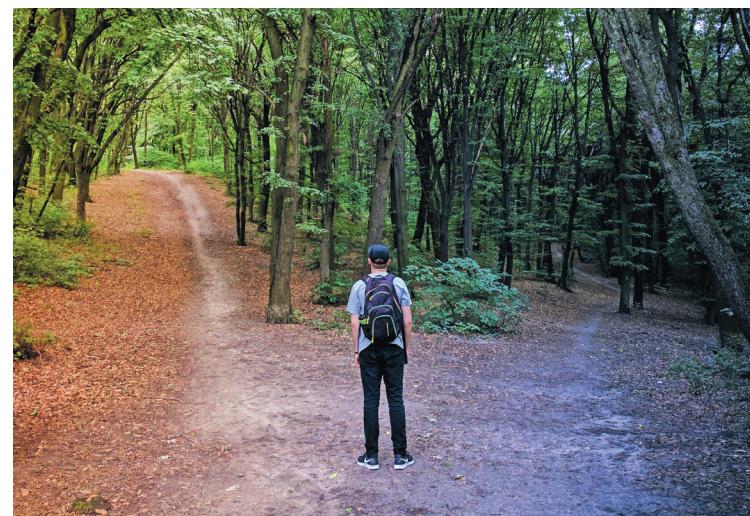
Si la vida es un aprendizaje, no podemos encontrar nada hecho, no podemos llegar al “supermercado de la vida” y comprar un matrimonio o acercarme a desear “buenos hijos” o “existen profesionales” o dinero en la cuenta del banco. Ninguna de las “necesidades” de la vida del ser humano esta lista y hecha para que yo llegue y la consiga. Lo que yo quiero de la vida tengo que hacerlo.

Tengo que sudarlo, capotearlo, enfrentarlo, asimilarlo, como si fuera plastilina, tengo que moldearlo. Cada experiencia es una fuente de aprendizaje. El matrimonio no está hecho, los hijos e hijas no se “consiguen” formados, las relaciones famili-

ares no están construidas, mi trabajo profesional no está ya listo; no se nace sacerdote, hay un proceso largo de formación en el seminario; los artistas, deportistas y médicos se educan y entran. Los buenos cristianos no surgen de la espontaneidad, se forman en la escuela de Jesús, con oración, arrepentimiento, compromiso y testimonio de vida en la misión y apostolado.

Entonces, cada cosa que tengo delante de mi vida, la tengo que lograr, tengo que hacer. No encuentras hecho tu camino, ni tu aprendizaje, ni tus relaciones, ni las soluciones prefabricadas a tus problemas o anhelos. Nada nos puede ser regalado, todo nos corresponde hacerlo. De allí que, aun cuando anhelamos las cosas fáciles, estas terminen por decepcionarnos. Porque se necesita mi huella, en el proceso de construcción de la vida. Por eso no me sirve el aprendizaje de otros. No me puede pasar la experiencia de mis padres ni yo puedo transmitirles la mía a mis hijos. Cada quien está haciendo su propio curso, su propio aprendizaje y es vital sentir esta verdad para no anhelar los procesos que viven las otras personas.

La ley de la correspondencia, una de las leyes más universales, dice que: “No existen negocios buenos o malos, ni empleos buenos o malos ni lugares buenos o malos. Lo que si hay son negocios, empleos o lugares que son convenientes para algunas personas y otros que no lo son. Existen negocios para unas personas y negocios para otras”. Aceptar



que la vida es un aprendizaje, el propio, me lleva a no mirar “el corral ajeno” lo que los otros hacen, lo que los otros logran, lo que los otros consiguen, porque ese es el camino de ellos, no el mío. En la ruta de posibilidades cada quien hace lo que le corresponde. Y por más maravillosos que me parezcan los otros caminos, no me corresponden, no son los míos. Como dice el poeta, “caminante no hay camino, se hace camino al andar”.

Si hace falta tener muy claro a donde queremos ir, que necesitamos aprender y luego poner los medios. Si falta esa visión clara corremos el riesgo de ir camino de ninguna parte. Como decía San Agustín: “*Bene cures, sed extra viam*”. “Corres mucho, pero fuera de camino”. Ese formidable promedio, camino de ninguna parte, es el que llevan algunos en su intento de llenar su día y su vida de sensación de diligencia y eficacia. Deberían recordar que cuando uno no sabe

a dónde va, no puede acabar bien. Y cuando va perdido, cuanto más corre más se aleja de su destino.

Es el caso de una señora que llega a la estación del ferrocarril, se dirige a la ventanilla donde venden los boletos y acelerada le dice al funcionario: “Deme un boleto de ida y vuelta”. “Para donde señora?” pregunta el empleado. Y la mujer replica airada: “Para aquí otra vez”. “Para donde va a ser?” Está claro dónde quiere volver. Lo que no se ve claro es donde quiere ir. Y eso ocurre a mucha la gente: *no saben a donde van*. Y a lo peor, no quieren ir a ninguna parte. Cuantos se pasan la vida girando alrededor de si mismo! Si uno no tiene claro a donde quiere ir, su caminar, su vida, carece de sentido.

Nos encontramos muy atareados en cosas quizás “muy importantes” y nos olvidamos de otras más importantes aun. Nos ocupan y preocupan cantidad de

problemas y trabajos. Y des- cuidamos muchas veces, lo más serio, trascendental e ineludible: Nuestra salvación nuestra sanctificación y estar bien con Dios y nuestros prójimos. Ante Dios, cada minuto vale una eternidad. Y eso igual a los veinte que a los ochenta años de nuestra vida. La enseñanza de Jesús es muy clara: “De que le sirve al hombre ganar el mundo entero si pierde su alma? o que podrá dar el hombre para recobrar su alma? (Mt. 16,26)

Para llegar a la meta es fundamental saber el camino a recorrer. La meta de todo ser humano es el Cielo, la santidad. El camino es el cumplimiento fiel de la voluntad de Dios, manifestada en Cristo. El punto de partida, el lugar donde uno este o la profesión que ejerza, es indiferente. Todos, sea cual sea nuestro lugar o nuestro trabajo, debemos y podemos ser santos y todos por mas celestes y brillantes que seamos en esta tierra, si no somos santos somos fracasados y ojo con esto porque abundan los que buscan el poder, la fama y el dinero y desprecian todo lo demás. En el cielo no caben los egoístas y orgullosos, son hinchados y ocupan mucho sitio y la puerta es estrecha. Cabe el humilde, el que lucha por ser bueno, hacer el bien a los demás, el que desea que solo Dios cuente! Solo la eternidad puede dar sentido y valor al tiempo. Solo el Cielo puede hacer que valga la pena la tierra. Estamos hechos para una “mejor vida” !Tú decides!

Live and learn!

We are born to live and to learn; that is, we were born to grow spiritually. Everything we do in life — our achievements, the people we love, everything that surrounds us — helps us to find the meaning of our life. We are born, we live, we cry, we laugh and whatever we feel or perceive is done with the aim of advancing on the path towards spiritual growth ... learning from every experience we have.

If life is an apprenticeship, we cannot find everything already prepared, we cannot visit the “supermarket of life” and buy a marriage or get closer to having “good children” or “attain success in our profession” or have money in our bank account. None of the “necessities” of human life are ready and available for me so I can just come and get them. What I want from life I have to work for and/or earn it.

I have to sweat it, embrace it, face it, assimilate it, and as if it were modeling clay, I have to mold it. Each experience is a source of learning. Marriage is not pre-determined; sons and daughters are not “obtained” already formed; family relationships are not built; my professional work is not ready and waiting for me; a man is not born

already a priest, there is a long process of training in the seminary; artists, athletes and doctors must be educated and trained. Good Christians do not arise spontaneously; they are formed in the school of Jesus, with prayer, repentance, commitment and testimony of life in mission and apostolate.

So, everything that I have to face in my life, I have to confront, I have to do it myself. You will not find your path prepared, or your learning, nor your relationships, nor the solutions provided already designed to meet your problems or desires. Nothing can be given to us; it is up to us to go after it. Hence, even when we long for the easy things, they may end up disappointing us, because our own involvement is needed in the process of building my life. That is why learning by the experiences of others is of no use to me. Even the experiences of my own parents cannot be transferred to me, nor can I transfer mine to my children. Each one is carrying out his own course, his own learning, and it is vital to accept this truth so as not to yearn for the experiences that other people live and feel.

The law of correspondence, one of the most universal laws,

says that: “There are no good or bad businesses, no good or bad jobs, and no good or bad places. What there is, are businesses, jobs or places that are suitable for some people and others that are not. There are opportunities for some people and opportunities for others.” Accepting that life is an apprenticeship, my own, leads me to avoid looking into “someone else’s corral,” what others do, what others achieve, what others accomplish, because that is their way, not mine. On the path of possibilities, each one does what is his or her part. And however wonderful the other paths may seem, they do not belong to me, they are not mine. As the poet says, “Traveler, there is no path; the path is made by walking.”

To be sure, it is necessary to be very clear about where we want to go, what we need to learn and then use whatever resources we need to use. If that clear vision is lacking, we run the risk of going nowhere. As Saint Augustine used to say: “*Bene cures, sed extra viam*.” “You run a lot, but not on the path.” This much imitated, average road to nowhere, is one that some travel in an attempt to fill their day and their life with a sense of diligence and efficiency. They should remem-

ber that when you do not know where you are going, it cannot end well. And when you are lost, the more you run, the further you get from your destination.

This is the case of a woman who arrives at the railway station, goes to the ticket window and, quite rushed, says to the official: “Give me a round trip ticket.” “Where to?” asked the employee. And the woman replies angrily: “Well, back here again, of course.” “But where are you going?” It is clear where she aims to return, but not where she wants to go. And that happens to a lot of people: *they don’t know where they are going*. And worst of all, they don’t really want to go anywhere. How many spend their lives just spinning in circles! If you are not clear about where you want to go, your path, even your life, is meaningless.

We find ourselves very busy with perhaps “very important” things and we forget about other more important ones. We are occupied and worried about a lot of problems and work. And we neglect many times the most serious, transcendental and inescapable: our salvation, our sanctification and being right with God and our neighbors. Every minute before God is worth an eternity. And that is the same at 20 as at

80. Jesus’ teaching is very clear: “What profit would there be for a man to gain the world if he loses his soul? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?” (Mt. 16,26).

In order to reach the goal it is essential to know the way to go. The goal of every human being is heaven, holiness. And this goal is attained through the faithful fulfillment of the will of God, manifested in Christ. The starting point, the place where you are or the profession you practice, is irrelevant. All of us, whatever our situation in life or our job, must and can be saints. And all of us, no matter how famous and brilliant we are on this earth, if we are not saints, we are failures. And beware of this, because there are many who seek power, fame and money and despise everything else.

In heaven there is no room for the selfish and proud, they are filled with self-importance and take up a lot of space. Yet, the door is narrow. It fits the humble, the one who strives to be good, to do good for others, who wants only God to matter! Only eternity can give meaning and value to time. Only Heaven can make it worthwhile here on earth. We have been created for “a better life”! It is up to you!

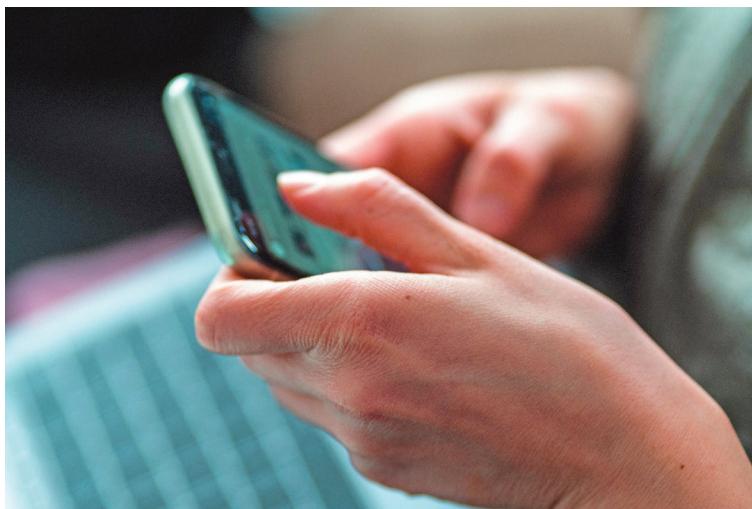
Pandemic Prompts New Ways to Give

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

This past year, people have learned how to distance socially, staying a safe distance away from others to avoid contracting the coronavirus and to slow the progression of the pandemic. Yet one of the ways in which people are staying connected and maintaining their sense of community is charitable giving.

Despite the challenging year, the people of the Diocese of El Paso continued to support the work of the Church through means such as the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal during 2020. The 2020 Appeal exceeded its \$1.9 million pledge goal.

"The people of this region are



generous and they care about their faith, their parish community and the Diocese," said Linda Caro, Chief Operating Officer. "They give because of the type

of people they are. They care, and they want to ensure the success of the Diocese and its work."

Caro acknowledges, however,

that despite their desire to support the Appeal and other charitable initiatives, some faithful are still reluctant to attend in-person engagements, including mass.

To ensure those individuals still have a socially distant way to support their Diocesan community, the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of El Paso is offering more technology-driven opportunities to donate. Those include online giving via the website, QR codes that direct supporters to a donation page and the newly offered text-to-give program.

"It's easy to miss an email when you are busy," said Caro. "But people see their text messages everyday. And, best of all, it's easy to use and socially dis-

tant way to engage for those who aren't yet comfortable coming to church."

By texting the word "Give" to (844) 950-2864, parishioners will then start receiving messages/instructions. The messages will guide individuals on how to setup an account. Individuals can give as little as \$5 through the texting program, and they can designate their parish or donate in honor or in memory of someone.

Once an account is setup, Diocesan community members can save the number and donate even more easily. Receipts are sent to the donor's email account.

For more information, contact 915.872.8412 or go to www.2021progress.org.

Sing 'Alleluia' by Sharing Your Evangelization Stories

By Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

The Catholic Foundation invites you to continue to sing "Alleluia, Alleluia" and welcomes you to spread the Good News from wherever you are in the world all the way to the United Nations.

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations launched the #forSafeWorship campaign to safeguard religious sites around the world, regardless of their faith, culture and history, in order to

increase acceptance and respect among human beings and build bridges of mutual understanding and cooperation. The Diocese of El Paso was impacted directly when the St. Patrick Cathedral Sacred Heart of Jesus statue was decapitated by a vandal. The story brought the community, the diocese, and people from around the country together, including members of other faiths. The #forSafeWorship campaign calls everyone to share their stories and to inspire people around the world to join the movement.

They are looking for stories — your story — to inspire people. Share your Catholic faith and your own personal story by uploading a photo, an album of photos, a short video, or an essay, about how you sing "Alleluia" in your life. For example, Stewardship Coordinator Karina Sandoval recently submitted a video filmed at the Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine at St. Mark Catholic Church and shared the sacred space as inspiration and what it means to her as a woman, wife and mother in the Church.



To submit your story visit forsafeworship.org

The world needs you to continue to spread the Good News while remaining cognizant of the suffering. We need to "do" and we also need to reflect about how we fit in the larger story

Thousands of immigrant

families are stranded in our sister city Juárez and many are called to accompany them with food, prayer, shelter, and compassion. Perhaps this is an area where you can sing Alleluia?

The Border Refugee Assistance Fund will be used to support the initiatives for immediate humanitarian needs of migrants in Ciudad Juárez, the majority of which have been organized by faith communities, according to Hope Border Institute. For more information visit: www.hopeborder.org.

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For more information, contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at slarkin@elpasodiocese.org or 915.872.8412

Kick-off Begins 2021 Progress Campaign

By Natalie Eckberg
Progress Coordinator

Pastors and volunteer lay leaders attended the 2021 Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal kick-off on March 31. The event was held virtually with ministry leaders sharing videos of the impact of their work. Resources were shared on-screen, vividly illustrating that this is no ordinary year for the Church. Attendees were treated to raffle prizes, including gifts of wine, restaurant gift cards, books and more.

The virtual format illustrated that even in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the many vital programs and services are still bearing fruit. Such continuity is made possible, in large part, through diocesan Catholics' financial support of the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal, said Bishop Mark Seitz.

"Each gift is very much appreciated," he said. "But the help the Diocese offers our community has never been needed by so many. The ongoing need for critical programs and services that the Diocese provides hasn't changed. In fact, it's grown."

The 2021 appeal is getting underway in parishes across the 10-county diocese. This year's



goal is \$1.9 million. Money raised through Progress represents 40 percent of all operating funds supporting the pastoral, spiritual, educational and human service programs that benefits every Catholic of the region.

"These are tumultuous times. So, whether you're hungry, troubled, lonely, vulnerable, or in need, today or any day, we will always be a beacon of hope for you," said Linda Caro, Chief Operating Officer.

During the kick-off, the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese staff premiered the 2021 Annual

Appeal video. The video highlights personal stories of those who have been impacted by the services of the Diocese.

One of those stories comes from Alfonso Sandoval, a permanent deacon candidate.

"As deacons, we will no longer be our own masters," he said. "We will be serving the people of God through the Church."

This class of permanent deacons is the first to go through a master's program in pastoral studies. The Diocese provides 50 percent of the cost of their studies at St. Thomas University in

Houston, but deacon candidates have to provide the other 50 percent to cover remaining tuition and books. Funds raised through Progress will assist with those costs and allow the deacons to focus on their ministry.

"Many of us are husbands and fathers, and the money that is brought in by the Diocese ensures that it does not become a financial burden. We do this willingly and with an open heart but it can be very hard for some of us financially," Sandoval said.

The 2021 Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal kick-off also

highlighted the past successes of some of the Progress leaders, who shared tips and tricks for the newer volunteers who are learning the process. The following Progress leaders shared their expertise: Terry Avila, Our Lady of Guadalupe-Fabens; Colleen Bealy, St. Matthew; Robert Garibay, San Antonio de Padua; Carl Pataky, Queen of Peace, and Carmen Zamora of St. Jude. All are committed, long-term volunteers who dedicate countless hours to help their respective parishes succeed in every way.

"We are so grateful to these servant leaders for sharing their knowledge and wisdom," Caro said. "Having Progress leaders support one another is incredibly helpful for those who are learning the process."

In light of the pandemic, the Catholic Foundation is continuing plans for a hybrid campaign that will continue to utilize traditional methods, like the pew appeal and envelopes, and incorporate the increased use of technology such as Text-to-Give options for those who continue to practice social distancing.

To learn more about how you can support one of 15 impactful ministries or to make a donation, go to www.2021progress.org.

Lanzamiento inicia la campaña de Progreso 2021

Por Natalie Eckberg
Coordinadora de Progreso

Pastores y líderes laicos voluntarios asistieron al lanzamiento de Progreso 2021: Campaña Católica para los Ministerios el 31 de marzo. El evento se llevó a cabo virtualmente con los líderes de los ministerios que compartieron videos del impacto de su trabajo. Los recursos se compartieron de manera virtual, lo que ilustra vívidamente que este no es un año cualquiera para la Iglesia. Los asistentes disfrutaron de la rifa de premios, incluyendo obsequios de vino, tarjetas de regalo de restaurantes, libros y más.

El formato virtual ilustró que incluso en medio de la pandemia de coronavirus, los muchos programas y servicios vitales todavía están dando frutos. Esta continuidad es posible, en gran parte, gracias al apoyo financiero de los católicos de esta diócesis a Progreso: Campaña Católica para los Ministerios. "Estos son tiempos complicados. Entonces, ya sea que tenga hambre, problemas, soledad, vulnerabilidad o necesidad, hoy o cualquier día, siempre seremos un faro de esperanza para usted", dijo Linda Caro, directora de operaciones de la Fundación Católica.

Established in 1983, Progreso proporciona fondos para los 15 ministerios en los 10 condados de la Diócesis de El Paso. El lanzamiento anual está diseñado para ayudar a los líderes del Progreso con los recursos necesarios para lanzar el evento anual en las iglesias diocesanas. El Progreso: Campaña Católica para los Ministerios es administrado por

la Fundación Católica.

Durante el lanzamiento, se estrenó el video de la Campaña Anual 2021 y el tema de Progreso, "El amor Construye Esperanza". El video destaca historias personales de aquellos que han sido ayudados por los servicios proporcionados por los ministerios diocesanos.

Una de esas historias es la de Alfonso Sandoval, candidato a diácono permanente. Él dice: "Como diáconos, ya no seremos nuestros propios amos. Estaremos sirviendo al pueblo de Dios a través de la Iglesia".

Esta generación de diáconos permanentes es la primera en pasar por un programa de maestría en estudios pastorales. La Diócesis proporciona el 50 por ciento del costo de sus estudios en la Universidad de St. Thomas en Houston, pero los candidatos

a diáconos deben proporcionar el otro 50 por ciento para cubrir la inscripción y los libros restantes. Los fondos recaudados a través de Progreso ayudarán con esos costos y permitirán que los diáconos se concentren en su ministerio.

"Muchos de nosotros somos esposos y padres, y el dinero que trae la Diócesis asegura que no se convierta en una carga financiera. Hacemos esto de buena gana y con el corazón abierto, pero puede ser muy difícil financieramente para algunos de nosotros", dijo Sandoval.

El lanzamiento de Progreso: Campaña Católica para los Ministerios 2021 también destacó los éxitos de años pasados de algunos de los líderes de Progreso, quienes compartieron consejos y trucos para los voluntarios más nuevos que están aprendiendo el

proceso. Los siguientes líderes de Progreso compartieron su experiencia: Terry Avila, Our Lady of Guadalupe - Fabens; Colleen Bealy, San Mateo; Robert Garibay, San Antonio de Padua; Carl Pataky, Reina de la Paz y Carmen Zamora de St. Jude. Todos son voluntarios comprometidos con muchos años de experiencia que dedican innumerables horas para ayudar a sus respectivas parroquias a tener éxito en todos los sentidos.

"Estamos muy agradecidos con estos líderes por compartir su conocimiento y sabiduría", dijo Caro. "Que los líderes de Progreso se apoyen entre sí es increíblemente útil para quienes están aprendiendo el proceso".

La apelación del 2021 está en marcha en las parroquias en los 10 condados que conforman la diócesis. La meta de este año es

\$ 1.9 millones. El dinero recaudado a través de Progreso representa el 40 por ciento de todos los fondos operativos que apoyan los programas pastorales, espirituales, educativos y de servicios humanos que benefician a miles de personas en toda la región.

A la luz de la pandemia, la Fundación Católica continúa con los planes para una campaña híbrida que continuará utilizando métodos tradicionales, como la apelación en los templos y los sobres, e incorporará el mayor uso de tecnología como las opciones Text-to-Give para quienes continúe practicando el distanciamiento social.

Para obtener más información sobre cómo puede apoyar uno de los 15 ministerios o hacer una donación, visite www.2021progress.org.



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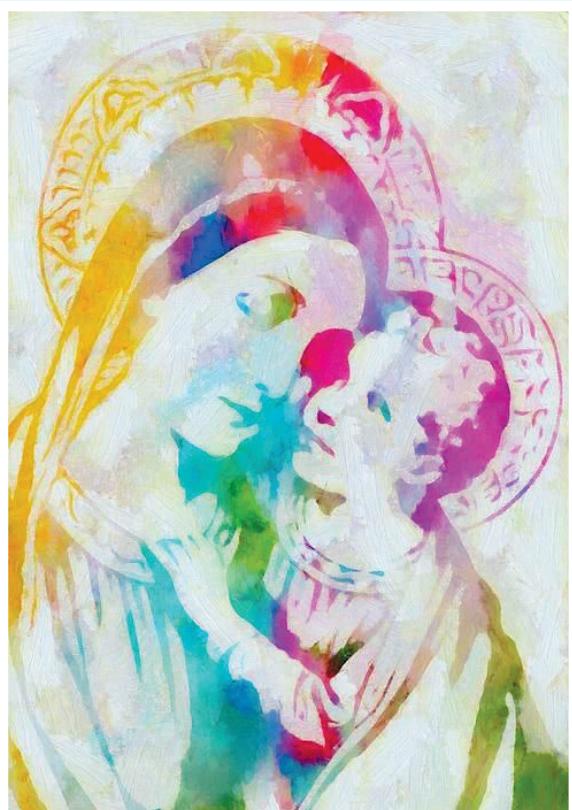
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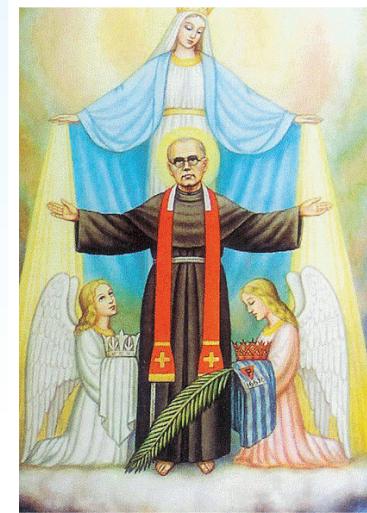


The Catholic Foundation wishes all of the beautiful mothers who bless our community a very happy and healthy Mother's Day. Thank you for all the sacrifices you have made and for the gift of life. We give thanks and praise for the Mother of Our Savior.

"I see Mary everywhere
and difficulties nowhere."

— SAINT MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE

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Fr. David Fierro
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**NEW
DATES**

MARIAN SHRINE PILGRIMAGE
Fr. Eric Wiseman
September 2022
CALL FOR DETAILS

**NEW
DATES**

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Fr. Nathan Mamo May 23, 2022 (10 Days) \$5,599 Per Person INCLUDES ROUND TRIP AIR Limited to 40 Travelers	Secular - All Germany Passion Play August 27, 2022 (10 Days) \$3,309 Per Person AIR NOT INCLUDED Limited to 20 Travelers

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