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El Paso Sees Over 500% increase in COVID-19 Cases

By Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

El Paso has surpassed over 500% in new coronavirus cases in the 1st half of October 2020. El Paso city and county officials have blamed the rising cases of COVID-19 to a failure to comply with social distancing measures and practices in the last month and a half.

Along with the rise in new cases of COVID-19 in the El Paso area, hospitalizations and ICU patients has risen as well. Health officials have cited that the coming 9-12 weeks could potentially be the worst surge since the beginning of the pandemic back in March of this year.

"We are creating more capacity even as we speak so that we have adequate resources to take care of our patients," said Dr. Joel Hendryx, the chief medical officer for the University Medical Center of El Paso told ABC-7 during an interview.

He indicated UMC has been working with El Paso Emergency Management officials and the other hospitals in the metro to address capacity issues.

"As we move through this pandemic, we have identified other areas in which we can take care of our other patients and each hospital has extra capacity which they are mobilizing," said Hendryx.

The Diocese of El Paso currently remains at Phase 3 of the diocesan protocol for church gathering in the time of the pandemic which allows for Sunday Masses at 25% capacity. Despite the rise in coronavirus cases throughout El Paso, parishes inside of El Paso County have not been identified as a virus hotspot due to the strict adherence to safety protocols put in place by diocesan, city and county officials.

Father Michael Lewis, the parochial vicar of St. Mark Parish has been closely monitoring the coronavirus pandemic for the diocese since it's beginning back in March.

"The people of the Diocese have been very vigilant in following social distancing measures during church gatherings," Fr. Michael Lewis, said. "Our pastors and parishioners have worked very hard in keeping with the protocols so that they can worship during Sunday mass in the safest way possible," he said.

While remaining in phase 3 of

- See COVID Increase on Page 6



Daily Mass held at 25% capacity at St. Patrick Cathedral during the Coronavirus pandemic. El Paso has surpassed over 500% of new coronavirus cases in the 1st half of October 2020. El Paso city and county officials have blamed the rising cases of COVID-19 to a failure to comply with social distancing measures and practices in the last month and a half. **Photo by Fernie Ceniceros**

El Paso ve incremento de más del 500% en casos de COVID-19

Por Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

El Paso ha superado el 500% de los nuevos casos de coronavirus en la primera mitad de octubre de 2020. Los funcionarios de la ciudad y el condado de El Paso han culpado el aumento de los casos de COVID-19 a un incumplimiento de las medidas y prácticas de distanciamiento social en el último mes y medio.

Junto con el aumento de casos de COVID-19 en el área de El Paso, el aumento de hospitalizaciones y pacientes de la UCI también ha aumentado. Los funcionarios de salud han citado que las próximas 9-12 semanas podrían ser potencialmente la peor oleada desde el comienzo de la pandemia en marzo de este

año.

"Estamos creando más capacidad incluso mientras hablamos para tener los recursos adecuados para cuidar de nuestros pacientes", dijo el Dr. Joel Hendryx, director médico del Centro Médico Universitario de El Paso, en una entrevista con ABC-7.

Indicó que el UMC ha estado trabajando con los funcionarios de la Administración de Emergencias de El Paso y los demás hospitales del metro para abordar los problemas de capacidad.

"A medida que avanzamos en esta pandemia, hemos identificado otras áreas en las que podemos atender a nuestros otros pacientes y cada hospital tiene una capacidad extra que están movilizando", dijo Hendryx.

La Diócesis de El Paso actual-

mente se mantiene en la Fase 3 del protocolo diocesano para la reunión de la iglesia en el tiempo de la pandemia que permite las misas de los domingos a una capacidad del 25%. A pesar del aumento de los casos de coronavirus en todo El Paso, las parroquias dentro del condado de El Paso no han sido identificadas como un punto caliente del virus debido a la estricta adhesión a los protocolos de seguridad establecidos por los funcionarios diocesanos, de la ciudad y del condado.

El padre Michael Lewis, vicario parroquial de la parroquia de San Marcos, ha estado vigilando de cerca la pandemia de coronavirus en la diócesis desde que comenzó en marzo.

"La gente de la diócesis ha

estado muy atenta a las medidas de distanciamiento social durante las reuniones de la iglesia", dijo el padre Michael Lewis. "Nuestros párrocos y feligreses han trabajado muy duro en el cumplimiento de los protocolos para que puedan celebrar la misa dominical de la manera más segura posible", dijo.

Mientras se mantiene la fase 3 de los protocolos para las reuniones de la iglesia, el obispo Mark Seitz también ha mantenido la dispensación de la obligación de la misa dominical para aquellos fieles que son más vulnerables a las complicaciones del virus.

El obispo Seitz se convirtió en - COVID Continuada en la Pagina 5

Voting is Much More Than a Political Act

By Rev. Marcus McFadin, D.Min.
Guest Editor

As our nation moves towards Election Day, we might consider our vote as just a political act. But it's much more than that. Voting is a moral act. And it can be a powerful expression of our work for a better world for both ourselves and others — in other words, our commitment to the common good.

What is the common good? The importance of the common good is reflected in the love and compassion of Jesus as well as in the teachings of the Hebrew scriptures that human beings have a divine spark within them

and are made in God's image. As brothers and sisters, we are called to serve the needs of one another with mutual affection. As Paul writes in his Letter to the Philippians, "regard others as more important than yourself" (2:4).

Pope Francis gives us an overarching vision of the common good in his recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. He notes that:

"A community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbors, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common

good." (67)

These words are especially important in today's world as we wrestle with so many challenges, which are falling particularly hard on the poor and vulnerable. Challenges like climate change, racism, joblessness and COVID-19 are pushing us to, as Pope Francis says, rebuild our communities by putting the needs of our vulnerable neighbors first.

Sometimes, politics makes us get caught up in passionate disagreement and divisiveness and we lose the ability to dialogue respectfully with those of differing views. We forget the deeper spirituality and concern

for others that should ground our civic responsibility.

We would do well to remember the Golden Rule: In everything do to others as you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12).

The Golden Rule is much more than being nice or polite. It's about moving beyond ourselves and thinking more in terms of "we" than "me." A spirituality of the Golden Rule can promote mutual understanding, harmony, and justice. Whatever our faith, as our spirituality takes on more depth, it ought to make us more attentive to the needs of others. Thinking about the common

good becomes a habit.

Putting the common good at the center also helps us in discerning for whom we should vote. Who will empower our communities to care for the most vulnerable? Who has the character, competence and experience to enable all of us to meet our full potential?

As we approach Election Day, let's remember that our vote is about so much more than just political parties or platforms or even individual candidates. It's really about showing love for one another and doing our part for the common good.

Votar Es Mucho Más Que Un Acto Político

Por el P. Marcus McFadin, D.Min.
Editor Invitado

A medida que nuestra nación avanza hacia el día de las elecciones, podríamos considerar nuestro voto como un acto político. Pero es mucho más que eso. Votar es un acto moral. Y puede ser una poderosa expresión de nuestro trabajo por un mundo mejor tanto para nosotros como para los demás - en otras palabras, nuestro compromiso con el bien común.

¿Qué es el bien común? La importancia del bien común se refleja en el amor y la compasión de Jesús, así como en las enseñanzas de las escrituras hebreas de que los seres humanos tienen una chispa divina en su

interior y están hechos a imagen de Dios. Como hermanos y hermanas, estamos llamados a servir a las necesidades de los demás con un afecto mutuo. Como Pablo escribe en su Carta a los Filipenses, "considera a los demás como más importantes que tú mismo" (2:4).

El Papa Francisco nos da una visión global del bien común en su reciente encíclica, *Fratelli Tutti*. Señala que:

"Una comunidad puede ser reconstruida por hombres y mujeres que se identifican con la vulnerabilidad de los demás, que rechazan la creación de una sociedad de exclusión, y actúan en cambio como vecinos, levantando y rehabilitando a los caídos por el bien común". (67)

Estas palabras son especialmente importantes en el mundo actual, en el que nos enfrentamos a tantos desafíos, que afectan especialmente a los pobres y vulnerables. Desafíos como el cambio climático, el racismo, el desempleo y COVID-19 nos están empujando a, como dice el Papa Francisco, reconstruir nuestras comunidades poniendo en primer lugar las necesidades de nuestros vecinos vulnerables.

A veces, la política nos hace quedar atrapados en un desacuerdo apasionado y en la división y perdemos la capacidad de dialogar respetuosamente con aquellos que tienen opiniones diferentes. Olvidamos la espiritualidad más profunda y

la preocupación por los demás que debería fundamentar nuestra responsabilidad cívica.

Haríamos bien en recordar la Regla de Oro: En todo lo que hagas a los demás como quieras que te hagan a ti (Mateo 7:12).

La Regla de Oro es mucho más que ser amable o cortés. Se trata de ir más allá de nosotros mismos y pensar más en términos de "nosotros" que de "yo". Una espiritualidad de la Regla de Oro puede promover la comprensión mutua, la armonía y la justicia. Cualquiera que sea nuestra fe, a medida que nuestra espiritualidad adquiere más profundidad, debe hacernos más atentos a las necesidades de los demás. Pensar en el bien común se convierte en

un hábito.

Poner el bien común en el centro también nos ayuda a discernir por quién debemos votar. ¿Quién capacitará a nuestras comunidades para cuidar de los más vulnerables? ¿Quién tiene el carácter, la competencia y la experiencia para que todos podamos desarrollar todo nuestro potencial?

A medida que nos acercamos al día de las elecciones, recordemos que nuestro voto es mucho más que sólo partidos políticos o plataformas o incluso candidatos individuales. Se trata realmente de mostrar amor por los demás y hacer nuestra parte por el bien común.

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INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH

Our Faithful Citizenship in an Election Year

This is the second part in a two-part series on voting and faithful citizenship.

The first part addressed the responsibilities of Christians in public life and the national elections. This part will explore the importance of getting engaged on local issues.

Bishop Seitz, top of mind for most people as we approach Election Day are the presidential elections? What should Catholics also care about local elections?

It is important for our faith community here on the border to be engaged on the national level in the elections. People in El Paso have a unique perspective on national and international issues. But we should also always keep our feet on the ground and be attentive to the needs of our neighbor next door.

The local races on the ballot are very important because those in local positions of power -- the mayor, city representatives, our state legislators and judges -- hold an important trust and are responsible for shaping our communities, directing resources where there is need and providing leadership to overcome challenges. We can show love for our neighbor by getting engaged at that very local level and choosing leaders who will make wise decisions, avoid self-seeking and put the needs of others first.

What is the connection between voting and love for neighbor?

In the Gospel of Luke, the Good Samaritan encounters a wounded stranger on the side of the road. He could have chosen to ignore him, like the priest and the Levite. But he chose to make him his neighbor. He bound up his wounds and made sure he was taken care of.

As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, he enlarges our heart so that our concern and our love go outward. Everyone, especially those wounded on the way, can become our neighbor. For that reason Christians should get involved in the work of making our neighborhoods and our city better.

What are some of the issues that should concern people of faith at a local level?

Everyone has been affected in one way or another by the pandemic. I was lucky enough to have come out basically unscathed after I was infected with Covid-19. But many people haven't been so lucky, especially those who were disadvantaged economically to begin with. We rely on our local authorities for accurate information, to keep our community safe, and to direct resources to those who are most vulnerable.

Those who are elected this November will have a very

heavy responsibility for re-building and to be a moral voice for those who have been most impacted. In his new encyclical, *Fratelli tutti*, Pope Francis says:

'A community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbors, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good.'

Those are good marching orders for new elected leaders.

Pope Francis has also challenged us to re-think development and I think that is another important issue for El Pasoans. We need genuine economic development that lifts our community up, which provides dignified work to support families, but that doesn't come at the cost of sacrificing our environment or the poor, or their aspirations and their culture. We have a real need in El Paso to re-discover one another as neighbors.

How can Catholics in El Paso get educated on the issues?

This year, our diocese, working together with the Hope Border Institute, a local Catholic education and advocacy organization, has put together a voters guide, the Borderland Voting Guide 2020: The El Paso Mayoral Election.

The voting guide brings



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

tionships with those with whom we share the Eucharist in our parishes. We grow more deeply in our faith to the degree that we bring the grace and love that we experience at the altar into the communities in which we live.

That is why the local is important for Catholics. We need to build rooted communities in our pilgrimage through this world. Our parishes should be waystations for the wounded, the hurting, the excluded and the poor.

As we recover from the pandemic, let's become more connected to one another around the altar. Let's strengthen our parishes. Our city should be different because of the presence of our Catholic parishes. The borderlands are thirsting for God.

Let us be more loving, more generous, more in solidarity with the suffering and the poor.

And if you can, remember to vote!

Nuestra Fiel Ciudadanía En Un Año De Elecciones

Esta es la segunda parte de una serie de dos partes sobre el voto y la ciudadanía fiel. La primera parte trata de las responsabilidades de los cristianos en la vida pública y las elecciones nacionales. Esta parte explorará la importancia de comprometerse con los asuntos locales.

Obispo Seitz, para la mayoría de la gente, al acercarse el día de las elecciones, las elecciones presidenciales... ¿Qué deberían preocupar a los católicos también en las elecciones locales?

Es importante que nuestra comunidad de fe aquí en la frontera se comprometa a nivel nacional en las elecciones. La gente de El Paso tiene una perspectiva única sobre los asuntos nacionales e internacionales. Pero también debemos mantener siempre los pies en la tierra y estar atentos a las necesidades de nuestro vecino de al lado.

Las carreras locales en la boleta electoral son muy importantes porque aquellos en posiciones de poder locales - el alcalde, los representantes de la ciudad, nuestros legisladores estatales y los jueces - tienen una confianza importante y son responsables de dar forma a nuestras comunidades, dirigiendo los recursos donde hay necesidad y proporcionando liderazgo para superar los desafíos. Podemos mostrar amor por nuestro prójimo comprometiéndonos a ese mismo nivel local y eligiendo líderes que tomen decisiones sabias, eviten la búsqueda de sí mismos y pongan

las necesidades de los demás en primer lugar.

¿Cuál es la conexión entre el voto y el amor al prójimo?

En el Evangelio de Lucas, el buen samaritano se encuentra con un extraño herido a un lado del camino. Podría haber elegido ignorarlo, como el sacerdote y el levita. Pero eligió hacerlo su vecino. Ató sus heridas y se aseguró de que le atendieran.

A medida que crecemos en nuestra relación con Jesús, él agranda nuestro corazón para que nuestra preocupación y nuestro amor salgan al exterior. Todos, especialmente los heridos en el camino, pueden convertirse en nuestro prójimo. Por eso los cristianos deben involucrarse en el trabajo de mejorar nuestros vecindarios y nuestra ciudad.

¿Cuáles son algunos de los temas que deberían preocupar a la gente de fe a nivel local?

Todo el mundo se ha visto afectado de una forma u otra por la pandemia. Tuve la suerte de salir básicamente ileso después de haberme infectado con Covid-19. Pero mucha gente no ha tenido tanta suerte, especialmente aquellos que estaban en desventaja económica para empezar. Dependemos de nuestras autoridades locales para obtener información precisa, para mantener nuestra comunidad segura y para dirigir los recursos a los más vulnerables.

Los que sean elegidos este noviembre tendrán una gran responsabilidad en la reconstrucción

ción y en ser una voz moral para los más afectados. En su nueva encíclica, *Fratelli tutti*, el Papa Francisco dice:

'Una comunidad puede ser reconstruida por hombres y mujeres que se identifican con la vulnerabilidad de los demás, que rechazan la creación de una sociedad de exclusión, y actúan en cambio como vecinos, levantando y rehabilitando a los caídos por el bien común'.

Esas son buenas órdenes de marcha para los nuevos líderes electos.

El Papa Francisco también nos ha desafiado a repensar el desarrollo y creo que es otro tema importante para los habitantes de El Paso. Necesitamos un desarrollo económico genuino que levante nuestra comunidad, que proporcione un trabajo digno para mantener a las familias, pero que no se haga a costa de sacrificar nuestro medio ambiente o a los pobres, o sus aspiraciones y su cultura. Tenemos una necesidad real en El Paso de redescubrirnos como vecinos.

¿Cómo pueden los católicos de El Paso educarse en estos temas?

Este año, nuestra diócesis, trabajando en conjunto con el Instituto Fronterizo Hope, una organización local de educación y defensa católica, ha elaborado una guía para los votantes, la Guía de Votación Fronteriza 2020: La elección de alcalde de El Paso.

La guía de votación reúne



todo lo que los habitantes de El Paso necesitan saber sobre cómo votar de manera segura durante la pandemia y explica quién y qué estará en la boleta este año, desde la elección presidencial hasta las elecciones para el consejo municipal local. Se centra de manera particular en la elección para alcalde de El Paso y presenta las respuestas de los candidatos a muchas de las preguntas que deberían preocupar a la gente de fe. También tiene herramientas para formar la conciencia y oraciones para el discernimiento.

La Guía de Votación de la Frontera 2020 se puede encontrar en www.hopeborder.org.

¿Tiene alguna idea final a medida que nos acercamos al día de las elecciones?

Los católicos deberían recordar que la palabra "católico" significa "universal" en el sentido de "reunión" en lugar de algo que es vasto y extendido. Nos volvemos más católicos en la medida en que estamos arraizados en las

relaciones con aquellos con los que compartimos la Eucaristía en nuestras parroquias. Crecemos más profundamente en nuestra fe en la medida en que llevamos la gracia y el amor que experimentamos en el altar a las comunidades en las que vivimos.

Es por eso que lo local es importante para los católicos. Necesitamos construir comunidades arraigadas en nuestro peregrinaje a través de este mundo. Nuestras parroquias deberían ser lugares de paso para los heridos, los heridos, los excluidos y los pobres.

A medida que nos recuperamos de la pandemia, nos conectamos más unos con otros alrededor del altar. Fortalezcamos nuestras parroquias. Nuestra ciudad debería ser diferente por la presencia de nuestras parroquias católicas. Las tierras fronterizas están sedientas de Dios. Seamos más cariñosos, más generosos, más solidarios con los que sufren y los pobres.

Y si pueden, ¡recuerden votar!

The Shifting of University Ministry due to COVID-19

By Fr. Mario Serrano, OFM Conv.
Director of Campus Ministry

Nearly every college and university has shifted from face to face classes to remote/online learning. Remote/online learning is not new for most institutions; however, having the majority of the students experiencing and attending remote/online learning is new. This has created ghost town campuses across the nation and has made parking spaces readily available.

Just like the parking spaces, we ourselves who are ministering to university students have had to become radically and creatively available and we have been challenged in making our presence known, especially to incoming freshman. As higher education has been forced to reinvent themselves in the face of COVID-19, we also have found ourselves in the same predicament. We too have been moving forward by engaging and igniting our imagination. We have been creatively exploring other options and outlets, while at the same time, upholding and maintaining diocesan and state mandates and simultaneously keeping abreast the developing policies at El Paso Community College and University of Texas- El Paso.

An even greater attentiveness has been essential and required while we sit within the new “cancel culture”, a symptom of this pandemic. We are not only relying on livestreaming Masses and texting through group apps, but have leaned into an “older technology,” the telephone. The ministry team has made phone calls to a list of 400+ students on a regular basis, using a “how to minister over the phone” guide we developed during the



Fr. Mario Serrano, OFM Conv. Celebrates virtual mass for the University Ministry Students at the Chapel at the San Romero University Ministry Center at the UTEP Campus. Photo Courtesy of the University Ministry Facebook Page

pandemic.

The phone calls have been a welcomed surprise for many of our students. We make sure to ask: Is there anything that we can do for you at this moment? Do you have any prayer intentions? We remind the students that we are available and give them each our cell phone numbers and emails. We let them know we have launched a new website: sanromerocenter.org. We sign them up for Flock Notes, ask if they would like to be on our email list and share with them a Scripture Litany for the Sick. Prior to concluding the call, we encourage them to

visit the chapel that has been rearranged to uphold all safety precautions or to set up a one on one session with any of us. Many have scheduled a one on one session.

It is within these one on one sessions that a generation which is already suffering with loneliness, have come to share the heartaches, the desperations, and the struggles within family dynamics that this pandemic has only highlighted. Fortunately, soon after the fall semester began, the Diocese of El Paso resumed Sunday Masses with 25% occupancy. We continue to have weekly Adoration with

Night Prayer, our Daily Mass on Wednesday and our Sunday Mass. Diocesan offices remain closed, this includes the University Ministry Center; however, all places of worship are to remain open. So, Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel has become the space to study, pray and enjoy some fellowship.

Having pivoted to a new paradigm of ministry, I wonder what we as Church, as a religious community, are being asked to undertake within our prayer, ministry, and neighborhoods.

As we move through this pandemic, access will continue to be limited or denied to campuses,

churches, and other places of where we gather to form community. We have prayerfully chosen to focus on doing a few things for the well-being of the student and remind the university students that we are available and are ready to journey with them by offering hope.

If you want to read up on what was being done prior to COVID-19 at the San Romero University Ministry Center, we are one of the 15 campuses showcased in the recently published book: *Catholic Campus Ministry: Fifteen Profiles in Achievement*.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

Fr. Francisco Hernandez	11/1
Fr. Mateus Pol, OSM	11/15
Fr. Emanuel Alcazar	11/19
Fr. Mario Serrano, OFM Conv.	11/22
Fr. Rogelio H. Rayas, OSM	11/23
Fr. Kevin O'Neill, FSSP	11/30

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Fr. Mario Serrano, OFM Conv	11/04/2016
Fr. Flavio Alberto Hernandez, OFM	11/15/1970
Fr. Peter Precourt, AA	11/20/1976
Fr. Mount Joseph Selvan Durai Raj, SJ	11/24/1993
Fr. Pablo Matta	11/25/1990



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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- COVID Increase From Page 1

the protocols for church gatherings, Bishop Mark Seitz has also maintained the dispensation of the Sunday Mass obligation for those faithful that are most vulnerable to the virus' complications.

Bishop Seitz became one of the 24,000 plus recovered cases in early October after having tested positive with COVID-19. After having experienced minor symptoms, he decided to get tested for the coronavirus.

**- COVID Continuada de la Pagina 1**

uno de los más de 24.000 casos recuperados a principios de octubre después de haber dado positivo con el COVID-19. Después de haber experimentado síntomas menores, decidió hacerse la prue-

ba del coronavirus.

"Había estado sintiendo síntomas menores y decidí que necesitaba hacerme la prueba y comenzar la cuarentena mientras recibía los resultados", dijo el obispo Seitz. "Después de haber dado positivo dos veces en 4 días, me sorprendí mucho con los

resultados dado que mis síntomas habían disminuido", dijo.

El obispo Seitz finalmente dio negativo casi 10 días después de su primera prueba positiva y fue liberado de la cuarentena por los funcionarios de salud del condado de El Paso.

Contándose a sí mismo entre

"I had been feeling minor symptoms and decided that I needed to get tested and begin quarantine while I received my results," Bishop Seitz said. "After having tested positive twice in 4 days, I was very surprised at the results given that my symptoms had subsided," he said.

Bishop Seitz did eventually test negative almost 10 days after his first positive test and was released from quarantine by the County of El Paso health officials.

Counting himself amongst the

fortunate to have minor symptoms during his infection, Bishop Seitz felt the need to express his concern with the rising number of cases in El Paso county.

"The alarming increase of the coronavirus is very troubling for me," he said. "I am praying for those in the El Paso community affected by this dreaded virus, and I hope that all of us in El Paso can come together to combat this deadly virus by strictly adhering to proper mask wearing and social distancing measures," he ended.

los habitantes de la comunidad de El Paso afectados por este temido virus, y espero que todos nosotros en El Paso podamos unirnos para combatir este virus mortal cumpliendo estrictamente con el uso de la máscara adecuada y con las medidas de distanciamiento social", finalizó.

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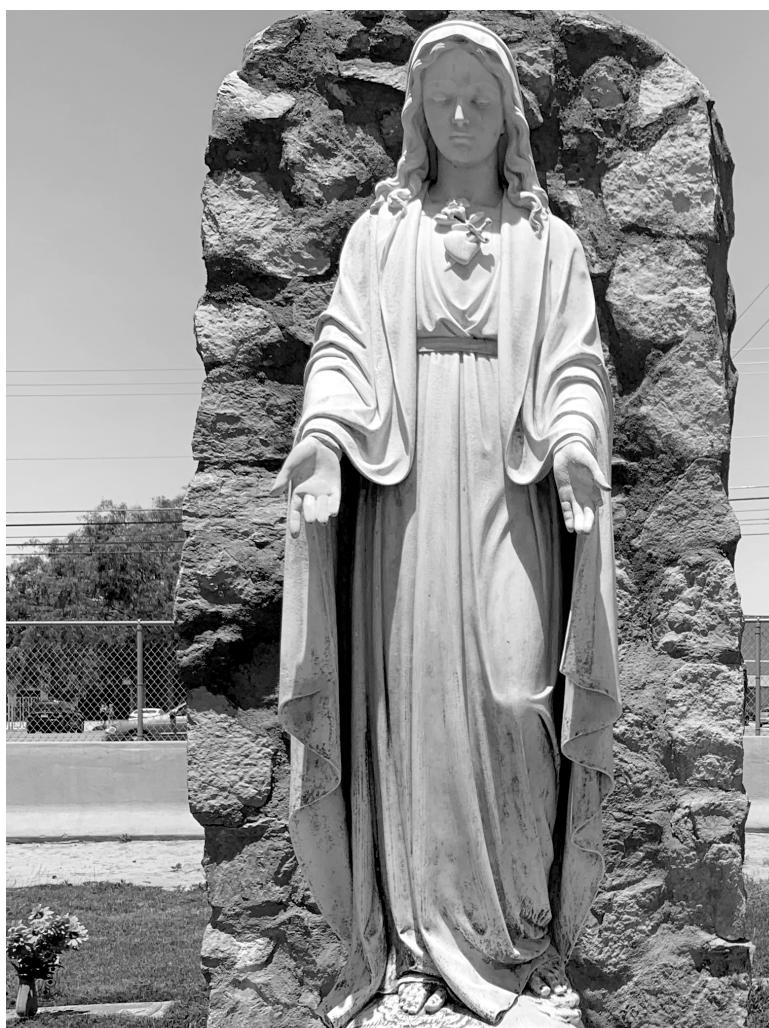
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery is the only cemetery in El Paso established specifically to serve the Catholic community. In your greatest need, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is an extension of the parish family that provides services and support to help you manage the difficult decisions and many practical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

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Our Ministries at Work in the Diocese of El Paso



Dear God, thank you for your infinite Love and Mercy, even in troubled uncertain times, you are with us, you strengthen us, and you uphold us with your righteous right hand!

By Martha Marmolejo
Progress Coordinator

Our Ministries At Work

Dear Disciples of Jesus, our generous God continues to create opportunities for us to continue with His son's work, during this time of uncertainty. The pandemic has left us with a sense of fear and concern, but never the less, it has also challenged us by giving us the opportunity to re-invent ourselves and try new ways of working for God and to glorify the mission of Jesus Christ on earth.

La Santa Misa has been broadcasting through Univision Channel 26, every Sunday at 7:00 am. **English Mass** broadcasts on the CW Network Channel, at 11:00 am., which you can find through your Cable Provider. You can also enjoy daily Mass through the Diocesan Facebook.

Tepeyac Institute classes are still available virtually by visit-

ing their website: www.tepeyacinstitute.com. You can also call (915) 872-8420 to ask for a Fall On-Line Training Program. All classes are offered in English and Spanish.

The Catholic Counseling Services Ministry continues to accept applications for families, individuals, young adults and children counseling, by phone, video or messaging and in some cases, in person with the proper precautions. Call (915) 872-8424 to reserve your appointment for a catholic based counseling.

Our Seminarians continue with their formation located at universities across the country, or are completing their annual pastoral service in a local church. Their unwavering commitment to our diocese is as strong as ever!

The Comunications Office continues their tasks of evangelizing the people of God in the Diocese of El Paso, via a variety

of digital and traditional communications mediums. The communications office oversees the Rio Grande Catholic, the online 24/7 broadcast of the Bridge Catholic Radio, all diocesan digital social media, the diocesan website, and media relations between the diocese and local and national media and press.

The Diocesan Migrant And Refugee Services, Inc., (Dmrs) is the only full-service immigration legal aid clinic serving low-income immigrants, refugees, our out of the country priests and seminarians, who continue working through phone, video and messaging. Call (915) 532-3975 for more information.

Donate now! To support these and all of the 15 Ministries of the diocese, or go to: 2020progress.org or at 915-872-8412 Or www.elpasodiocesefoundation.org



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Catholic Foundation Year-End Giving Season Resources for 2020

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gift Coordinator

It's an honor to help you with your charitable goals and interests. We've put together a resource guide to help with your year-end giving and hope the following information is useful as you plan your year-end giving. You can ask any follow-up questions by contacting Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin directly at 915-433-2003 or slarkin@elpasodiocese.org. Thank you for your partnership with the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso.

Important Year-End Giving Deadlines

- December 1, 2020: Recommended date to initiate gifts of securities or wire transfers
- December 4, 2020: Recommended date to initiate an IRA Charitable Rollover
- December 31, 2020: This is the final date for charitable contributions to be tax deductible for 2020

Make Gifts of Stock

Please notify us when you plan to transfer a gift of securities and provide a description of the security (for example, 50 shares of XYZ Inc. stock). Please contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin for the account information to send your stock gift.

Gift Planning Strategies: the IRA Charitable Rollover

The IRA Charitable Rollover is a unique federal provision allows anyone 70½ years or older to make an outright gift directly from their IRA to the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso of up to \$100,000, without paying income tax on the distribution. This is also known as a qualified charitable distribution.

Who can make a gift through the IRA Charitable Rollover?

Anyone with a traditional or Roth IRA who is 70½ years old and above.

How much can be donated this way?

Up to \$100,000 in 2020, no matter what your income is.

If I make a gift from a traditional IRA, am I required to take a required minimum distribution (RMD)?

As part of the CARES Act, most donors will not have to take their required minimum distribution in 2020. Also, in most cases, required minimum distributions that would have started in 2020 have been delayed to 2021. We encourage you to consult with your financial advisor to discuss your specific retirement plan(s) and how this may affect your personal tax situation.

Do I get a federal income tax



Machelle and Benny Vanecek are longtime supporters of the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso and are leaving a legacy for the future.
Photo by Ale Saldaña

deduction?

No, but you are not required to pay federal income tax on the withdrawal either. NOTE: Some states may not exclude gift amounts withdrawn from an IRA for state income tax purposes. We encourage you to consult with your tax advisor to discuss your personal tax situation.

Do gifts from other retirement accounts qualify?

Gifts from retirement accounts other than IRAs—such as 401(k), 403(b) and SEP accounts—are not eligible to make direct transfers. However, donors may be able to make qualified, tax-free transfers to their IRA, and then make the IRA charitable rollover gift. We encourage you to consult with your tax advisor to discuss your personal tax situation.

Contact your retirement plan administrator well before the December 31 deadline to learn how to initiate the gift. We recommend you do so by December 4.

All check donations should be mailed to the Foundation at:

The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso

P.O. Box 17993
El Paso, TX 79917

Can I use my IRA checkbook to make this gift?

Yes, and please note, unlike a cash or credit card donation, the date of your IRA gift is determined by the date that the Foundation for the Diocese of

El Paso deposits the check, not the date that you dropped it in the mail. Therefore, if we do not receive your check in time to deposit by noon on December 31, then the gift is not considered to be in that tax year. This may impact your required minimum distribution for the year and your personal tax situation.

Our team is here to support

you!

We look forward to answering your questions, conducting research for you, and providing information on products, services, and programs that help support your charitable goals and interests. Contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin directly at 915-433-2003 or slarkin@elpasodiocese.org

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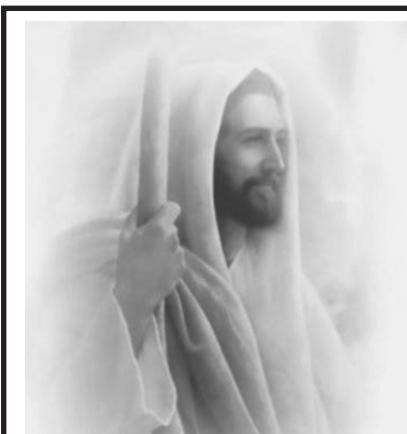
Wednesday - Friday 9 am -12 pm

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

Saturday 5 - 6

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

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



Special Collections for November 2020



Collection for Peter's Pence

The Peter's Pence 2020 Collection for the works of the Holy Father will be taken up at all Masses on Saturday, November 7, 2020 and Sunday, November 8, 2020.

Each year, the annual Peter's Pence Collection in support of the works of the Holy Father is held in parishes across the country. The proceeds from this collection provide emergency assistance to the most disadvantaged – those who suffer because of war, oppression, disease, and natural disaster. When we contribute to this fund, we are actively living the truth in love and speaking the truth in deeds.

As we participate in this special appeal, we join with more than 1 billion Catholics in a loving expression of worldwide solidarity. More than 98 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to the Holy Father's spiritual and charitable efforts around the globe.

On the weekend of November 7 and November 8, 2020 please take the opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. Thank you for your support.

La Colecta Para Las Obras del Santo Padre

La Colecta para las Obras del Santo Padre que será recogida en todas las misas durante el fin de semana del 7 de noviembre y 8 de noviembre, 2020.

Todos los años se realiza en las parroquias de todo el país la Colecta Peter's Pence, u Óbolo de San Pedro, en apoyo de las obras del Santo Padre. Lo recaudado en esta colecta financia asistencia de emergencia a las personas que sufren por la guerra, la opresión, enfermedades y los desastres naturales en todo el mundo. Cuando contribuimos a este fondo, estamos activamente hablando la verdad en el amor, y viviendo la verdad en los hechos.

Al participar en esta petición especial, nos unimos a más de mil millones de católicos en una amorosa expresión de solidaridad mundial. Más de 98 centavos de cada dólar recibido se destinan directamente a los esfuerzos espirituales y caritativos del Santo Padre en todo el mundo.

El fin de la semana del 7 y 8 de noviembre del 2020, por favor dé se la oportunidad de contribuir a esta digna causa.

Collection for the Campaign for Human Development

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development 2020 Collection will be held on Sat-

urday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22, 2020.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development supports communities across the country as they address the root causes of poverty. From the pro-life health clinics in California to community gardens in Pennsylvania, CCHD supports projects that are helping families break the cycle of poverty in their own communities. Part of the funds collected are returned to the El Paso Diocese to fund local programs that are addressing the many challenges of our neighbors in need.

Over 46 million people in the United States live on the margins and are being left behind by the recovery. CCHD remains committed to following Catholic moral teachings, demonstrating a preferential love for those who are poor, promoting the dignity of the human person, and strengthening working families. Your participation in this collection is a concrete expression of solidarity; giving hope and extending a hand to fellow Americans.

On the weekend of November 21 and November 22, 2020 please take the opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. Thank you for your support.

La Colecta Para la Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano

La Colecta para Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano que será recogida en todas las misas durante el fin de semana del 21 de noviembre y 22 de noviembre, 2020.

La Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano apoya a las comunidades de todo el país, ya que abordan las causas fundamentales de la pobreza. Desde los centros de salud a favor de la vida en California, a los jardines comunitarios en Pennsylvania, la Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano apoya proyectos que están ayudando a las familias a romper el ciclo de la pobreza en sus propias comunidades. La cantidad compartida (25%) de los fondos colectados se regresan a la diócesis de El Paso y apoyan programas locales que tocan los retos de nuestros hermanos necesitados.

Más de 46 millones de personas en los Estados Unidos viven al borde de la pobreza y se siguen quedando atrás en su recuperación. La Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano mantiene su compromiso de seguir las enseñanzas morales católicas, lo que demuestra un amor preferencial por los pobres, la promoción de la dignidad de la persona humana y el fortalecimiento de las familias trabajadoras. Su participación en esta colecta es una expresión concreta de solidaridad; dando esperanza y extendiendo la mano a nuestros compatriotas.



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Borderlands Voting Guide 2020: The El Paso Mayoral Election

by HOPE BORDER INSTITUTE & Most Rev. Mark J. Seitz, Bishop of El Paso

Neither the Hope Border Institute, nor the Diocese of El Paso, endorse or oppose any candidates for public office. This guide is designed for educational purposes only.

ELECTION 2020: MAYOR OF EL PASO

This November, El Paso gets to elect a mayor!

The current incumbent, Mayor Dee Margo, is running alongside six challengers. If no candidate wins a majority in the general election, the top two vote-getters will advance to a runoff, to be scheduled at a later date.

The El Paso mayoral race is non-partisan. Although individual candidates may belong to a political party, they do not identify party affiliation on the ballot.

Whoever is elected mayor will serve a four-year term.

Some things you should know about the Mayor of El Paso:

- The Mayor is the ceremonial head of the City of El Paso.
- The Mayor represents El Paso within the city government and to other levels of government.
- The Mayor is a member of and presides over the City Council and has the power to propose legislation, veto legislation (except for any City Council action to remove the City Manager), break tie votes and convene special sessions of City Council.
- The Mayor appoints members of citizen advisory boards and commissions, with the consent of the City Council.

WHO'S RUNNING FOR MAYOR?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186

Current Occupation: Swim coach

Education: BA from Texas A&M in Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser declined to answer our candidate questionnaire.

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188

Current Occupation: Principal and owner of an urban planning and community development consulting firm

Education: BA from the University of Texas at El Paso and MA in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University

Experience in Public Life: Mr. Gallinar was the executive director for facilities and construction at the El Paso Independent School District (2016-18), deputy planning director for the City of El Paso (2012-16), and comprehensive plan manager for the City of El Paso (2010-12). Mr. Gallinar served as the chairman of the City Plan Commission in 2009 and commissioner from 2005-09. Mr. Gallinar previously worked as director of community planning at La Fe Clinic (2005-10).

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

Current Occupation: Retired

Experience in Public Life: Mr. Martinez retired in 2002, having served 28 years as both a member of the military and employee of the Department of Defense.

Ms. Veronica 'Vero' Carbajal 190

Current Occupation: Public interest attorney

Education: BA in Environmental Studies from Brown University and JD from the University of Texas at Austin Law School

Experience in Public Life: Ms. Carbajal has worked as an attorney at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid for the past fifteen years.

Hon. Dee Margo 191

Current Occupation: The Honorable Dee Margo is the current Mayor of El Paso and assumed office in June 2017.

Education: BA in History and Economics from Vanderbilt University

Experience in Public Life: Mayor Margo currently serves as Vice Chair for Border Security on the US Conference of Mayors (USCM) Criminal and Social Justice Committee, as well as Co-Chair of US-CM's COVID-19 Response and Health Equity Working Group. Mayor Margo was recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas Oversight Committee. He is also a member of the Texas Municipal League Executive Committee.

Mr. Margo was previously a Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives, representing Texas District 78 from 2011 to 2013. He has served as the president of the El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) Board of Managers. Mayor Margo also served as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army.

Mayor Margo is a previous chair of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce. He was a founding member of the organization now known as the Borderplex Alliance.

WHERE DO THE CANDIDATES STAND?

We asked each of the candidates running for Mayor of El Paso the following long and short form questions. These are their answers.

Q.1 Emerging from the Crisis Better

The pandemic has affected everyone in the borderlands but has hit the poor, working class families, immigrants and people of color hardest. As mayor, what specific policies will you pursue to prioritize an equitable recovery for the most vulnerable and ensure that we emerge from the current crisis stronger?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186

To rebuild we will need to work. My top priority is to build from within and that needs to begin with education. We will educate those that are ready to help build El Paso into the future.

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser declined to answer our candidate questionnaire.

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188

Latinos are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and we have seen our community suffer greatly. This city administration has failed us. It's been more than 100 days since we've had a public health director. We have unreliable data and no transparency on the clusters that would keep El Pasoans safe. As the first candidate to call for a shelter-in-place order I will lead with science and facts. I will hire a public health director and vote to share clusters. With a fully resourced and staffed public health department we can begin to combat this pandemic stronger and address the underlying conditions facing every vulnerable population in our community in the long term

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

I would like to contract with the States Support financing in providing S.O.P. COVID-19 Screening each day before work starts utilizing mobile contractors.

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190

On March 12, 2020, I asked the City to prevent the spread of COVID 19 at places like nursing homes, healthcare facilities, jails and immigration centers because they're enclosed, people cannot socially distance or hand wash, many occupants are vulnerable and many employees are low wage workers with little protections. The City has provided little to no support to these locations. My strategy would be to target these places and implement safety protocols with CARES Act money. I would use the \$119 million CARES Act funds to effectively inform the public, small businesses and

service providers about how to stay safe (English/Spanish); test and trace; protect the workers and occupants of truly essential and high-risk businesses and spaces; enforce safety measures and shut down non-compliant private businesses; and ensure that renters and small business owners can access financial and other support, including childcare. As an attorney at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc., I have worked closely with the City and community organizations regarding rental assistance.

Currently, not enough tenants or small businesses have applied. I would work with community leaders to identify barriers and facilitate the application process, possibly by using City furloughed employees to help applicants.

Hon. Dee Margo 191

Rebuilding our economy is a priority for emerging from the Pandemic. This includes ensuring our most vulnerable have access to the necessary resources.

Q.2 Racial Solidarity

Last year, our community suffered a racially motivated terrorist attack and our nation continues to wrestle with ensuring dignity and equality for all people of color, including in the areas of policing and criminal justice. As mayor, what specific actions will you take to address systemic racism in the borderlands?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186

We would need to rebuild department structures, introduce a new neutral process of employment and hire more part-time professionals. Which will help with them sharpen their already learned skills.

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser declined to answer our candidate questionnaire.

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188

I have outlined a plan for an equitable budget and reforms to our police department. This plan outlines the demilitarization of police, an end to use of force policies, and a citizen led oversight board among other items. We must also begin to lead on these issues and have a strong unifying voice at City Hall. As Mayor, I will prioritize safe and accessible parks, youth services, mental health programs for individuals and families, recreational amenities like hike and bike trails, arts and culture, and employment opportunities that pay a living wage.

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

Assign reps from all government. Local, state and federal need to be trained to recognize the issues such as, sexual harassment, racism, etc. Understanding & implementing the

no jokes, no systematic racism among colleagues. Extreme measures to correct these issues.

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190

We must affirmatively combat the ignorance that white supremacists use to justify their verbal, political and physical assaults against people of color. We must protect our Latinx historic barrios from destruction with historic designations. We must give the Mexican American Cultural Center its own building instead of a sports arena that is consuming 80% of bond funds. Our elected leaders must speak against federal inhumane and racist immigration policies. EPPD cannot racially profile Black El Pasoans and we must work with the Black community prior to drafting any plans for transforming the police department. We must look at data that can identify disparities based on race, color or national origin in housing (rental and sales), employment, educational outcomes, healthcare and criminal sentences, among others. We must engage with Black El Pasoans to insure that our city services, including cultural programming, includes them in a way that is meaningful. We must seek environmental justice and speak against EPISD as it increases children's exposure to air pollution with its bus hub and arbitrary school shutdowns in the Chamizal which is 99.1% people of color. We must replace all racist local monuments and school names, including the Juan de Onate statue.

Hon. Dee Margo 191

As long as I am Mayor, racism will never be tolerated. The EP Strong Resolution will establish new reporting to encourage elimination of racial disparities in arrests and other law enforcement actions.

Q.3 Addressing the Challenge of Climate Change

This past summer was one of the hottest in the history of the borderlands. As mayor, what will your plan be for a city response to addressing climate change? How will you leverage the city's leadership role in moving our community away from fossil fuels and practices like fracking towards sustainable practices that protect the environment?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186

I know about solar, micro-grids, and batteries. District Projects will produce energy and provide jobs. Making our city becoming the largest energy producer possible.

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser declined to answer our candidate questionnaire.

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188

El Paso is the 2nd fastest warming city in the country. And El Paso remains the largest city in Texas without a climate change plan. This is why my first policy initiative was a Climate Change Strategy for El Paso (<https://carlosformayor.com/climate-change>). Let's be the Sun City not just in name, but in practice. El Paso can lead on solar and renewable energy, build the largest solar farm in the country, incentivize solar panel installation, modernize our public transportation to create a system that's accessible, efficient, and equitable, and increase mass transit options that include safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists. As mayor, El Paso I will join C40 Cities and The Climate Mayors and lead the way on climate resiliency. Plan El Paso, an award winning masterplan for the City, was focused on sustainability. By shifting priorities at City Hall towards these items, we can leverage the city towards more green communities.

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

There needs to be a need or study done in what can be best suited for this city and the climate changes affecting our city and support the state and federal standard on helping to reduce the effects.

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190

Fossil fuel emissions at the power plant, the refinery, and other industrial sites and from mobile sources (vehicular and commercial traffic on roads and bridges), must be reduced to lower temperatures. El Paso Electric is a top consumer of water. Refrigerated air conditioning units consume more electricity than swamp coolers. While refrigerated air is promoted as a water conservation alternative to swamp coolers, we have just shifted water consumption from the residential/commercial site to the power plant. We must reduce our consumption of electricity in general and increase our production of solar energy. Since the City passed up municipalizing and therefore controlling EPE's production of solar energy, it must take alternative measures like using solar energy on city-owned buildings and street lights; weatherizing City-owned buildings and incentives for weatherizing private and public buildings; facilitating property owners' installation of solar panels by expediting the permitting and inspection process; advocating for solar energy friendly regulations at the state. We must reduce vehicle emissions. We cannot support expanding I-10 through downtown. We need free public transportation, encourage remote work and incentivize workers to use public transportation. We must also expedite traffic at the bridges by advocating for expanding SENTRI/Dedicated Commuter Lanes.

Hon. Dee Margo 191

It is a priority of the City to seek legislation for solar energy incentives from the State Legislature. Current State incentives for alternative energy use apply primarily to wind energy.

Q.4 Integral Economic Development

Sometimes we hear that the necessary cost of economic development in El Paso is the displacement of more vulnerable communities, gentrification and the loss of our historic neighborhoods. As mayor,

how will you pursue a broad-based economic development that provides meaningful opportunities for work with living wages, protects our cultural patrimony, and includes the participation of all?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186
The city has turned its back on our deepest root and its hurting. That area can be rejuvenated and not by tearing down residences. We can do those communities better and we will.

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser declined to answer our candidate questionnaire.

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188

Our economic development strategies need to change. As Mayor, my priorities for economic growth will be to combat climate change, diversify our economy away from fast food restaurants and call centers, and protect our natural and cultural assets. El Paso can create an eco-tourism and cultural heritage economy, we can create a regional hike and bike trail that connects every neighborhood and to the Mission Valley. I've spent the past 12 months listening and engaging with real people and they often feel that they don't have a voice at City Hall. I have laid out a plan on Public Participation which outlines having an open door policy, taking City Hall to neighborhoods, and making my calendar public information. We need to rebuild trust with the community and change the way we lead.

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

I would like to visit our colleges/universities broad members to see best from their prospective ideas.

Graduating and moving forward with the innovative ideas onto this spectrum. In close, utilizing high school student support, Multi-cultural, arts & crafts ticket items. Sold and made in sharing arts & crafts supporting and participating together.

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190

The success of our economic development must be measured not only by how much money El Pasoans make, but also by how far their money can actually go. The key components of my economic development plan will be: 1) using tax incentives for creating good paying jobs for everyday El Pasoans, not for enriching millionaires or subsidizing the construction of private buildings; 2) helping workers by supporting programs that prepare workers for good paying jobs; funding affordable childcare for working families; free and accessible WiFi throughout the city; 3) supporting small business growth with a focus on the environment, arts, heritage tourism and technology. We can sell our city without selling out our workers, environment, or tax payers. We must closely scrutinize tax incentives for companies looking to invest in El Paso. I want the same or better job opportunities that I had when I was hired by Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.: a good salary, student loan repayment, paid sick leave, healthcare and a unionized workforce. We can expect no less. Further, we need to devote and invest such tax incentives to home-grown local businesses that will keep their profits here.

Hon. Dee Margo 191

Since I became your Mayor, we have added 4,155 net new jobs with \$808 million in capital

Voter Guide 2020

investments. That's \$300 million more investment with 1,500 more new jobs than the previous administration.

Q.5 A Community of Immigrants

El Paso has a noble tradition of providing hospitality to asylum seekers and migrants seeking a better life at our borders. As mayor, what leadership role will you play in the national debate around comprehensive immigration reform?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186

Immigration reform must happen and I will be a very loud voice in favor of it happening. During the meantime I will make sure that those seeking a better life be treated humanely

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser declined to answer our candidate questionnaire.

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188

Working with our local partners who are leading the effort to serve our migrant and refugee community, we will establish a one stop shop to support migrants, service providers, and promote public understanding of our region through an Office of Immigrant Affairs. As Mayor, I will fight for humane and comprehensive immigration reform. El Paso deserves to have a voice on the decisions made in Washington about our community.

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

First thing, don't change what is proving best for Asylum seekers. Limit our support we provide so we do not go over our budgets. Reform can be a good thing if our part is to work together with others whom mean to move into a more constructive NOT destructive future and life. Exercise having the Chief of Border & Customs support. Not taking his responsibility away or putting Border Patrol out of context.

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190

As mayor, I will be a staunch supporter of comprehensive immigration reform as well as humane border security policies that do not violate our own rules or international treaties. I will not be the kind of leader that remains silent as Latin American migrants, including children, are separated from their families and made to sleep on rocks underneath one of our bridges instead of being housed on the West Side of the City because the El Paso Chamber of Commerce finds they do not fit the profile of their community. I would never invite the very people who implemented these horrific, inhumane and racist policies to honor the victims of a shooting motivated by racial hatred against our Latinx community. Early in my administration, I will work with local nonprofits to establish a plan that can be implemented if we have any future immigration crisis. A component of this plan could include establishing immigration welcoming centers as was done in San Antonio so that we don't place all of the burden on local nonprofits.

Hon. Dee Margo 191

I have been advocating the Federal Government for comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship for DACA recipients and I will always advocate for our binational community.

Q.6 Sanctity of Life

In January 2020, the Mayor of El Paso issued a proclamation in support of the National Sanctity of Human Life Day. Will you support similar proclamations in support of local pro-life organizations walking with expectant mothers in crisis pregnancies?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- **Oppose**

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Declined to Answer

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- **Oppose**

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- **Support**

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190- **Oppose**

Hon. Dee Margo 191- **Support**

Q.7 Municipal IDs

Do you support municipal IDs for El Paso's immigrant population?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- **Support**

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Declined to Answer

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- **Support**

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- **Support**

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190- **Support**

Hon. Dee Margo 191- **Oppose**

Q.8 Downtown Area

Do you support the termination of the downtown arena project or its re-location away from historic neighborhoods?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- **Support**

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Declined to Answer

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- **Support**

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- **Support**

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190- **Support**

Hon. Dee Margo 191- **Oppose**

Q.9 Fracking

Do you support the El Paso Electric Company's planned 228-megawatt Natural Gas generator, called 'Newman 6', which will generate power from fracked gas?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- **Oppose**

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Declined to Answer

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- **Oppose**

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- **Oppose**

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190- **Oppose**

Hon. Dee Margo 191- **Oppose**

Q.10 Democracy

Do you support additional limits on campaign contributions for mayoral and city council races?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- **Support**

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Declined to Answer

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- **Support**

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- **Support**

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190- **Support**

Hon. Dee Margo 191- **Oppose**

Q.11 Community Policing

Do you support the expansion of the El Paso Police Department's crisis intervention teams, which respond to emergencies involving the mentally ill?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- **Support**

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Declined to Answer

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- **Support**

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- **Support**

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190- **Support**

Hon. Dee Margo 191- **Support**

Prayer of Discernment

Invoke the presence of God. Recall in gratitude the gifts given to you by God and how divine love sustains our borderland community and our world. Consider what gives you feelings of gratitude, joy and excitement.

Call on the Spirit. Consider the needs of those in our community, our country and world who are most vulnerable, whether to racism, poverty or other types of exclusion. How is God present in their struggle? How is the Spirit calling upon you to respond? Take time to notice your feelings, anxieties, fears and hopes. Converse with God about all of this honestly and recognize the way the Spirit is leading you to consider what you might be called to do.

Trust. Call on God to direct your intentions and desires towards building up the common good and a society where each of us, and all of us together, can flourish and live up to our calling as children of God. Consider how you will respond anew to God's invitation to participate in building up the Reign of God, including through your vote.

Visit www.HopeBorder.org to read the **Borderlands Voting Guide 2020** authored by Hope Border Institute and Bishop Mark J. Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso. This voting guide is authored and designed by Hope Border Institute and Bishop Mark J. Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso specifically for people of faith in El Paso.

Available in both English and Spanish, the **Borderlands Voting Guide 2020** includes important reflection questions and critical information as voters begin casting their ballots for the 2020 election, as well as tips on how to vote safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Guía de Votación Fronteriza 2020: Elecciones de Alcalde de El Paso

por HOPE BORDER INSTITUTE & Mons. Mark J. Seitz, Obispo de El Paso

Ni el Instituto Fronterizo Esperanza, ni la Diócesis de El Paso, apoyan o se oponen a ningún candidato a un cargo público. Esta guía está diseñada para propósitos educativos solamente.

ELECCIÓN 2020: ALCALDE DE EL PASO

Este noviembre, El Paso elige una o un/una alcalde/alcaldesa nuevo!

El alcalde actual, Dee Margo, está en competencia con 6 otros candidatos. Si ningún candidato gana la mayoría de los votos en la elección general, los dos candidatos con el mayor números de votos avanzan a una segunda elección de nuevo.

La elección del alcalde no tiene afiliación a cualquier partido político. Aunque los candidatos individuales pueden afiliarse con un partido político, esto no aparecerá a la hora de votar. El ganador de la elección tendrá un término de 4 años.

Algunas cosas que debes saber sobre el alcalde de El Paso:

- El alcalde es el jefe o jefa ceremonial de la ciudad de El Paso
- El alcalde representa a El Paso dentro del gobierno de la ciudad y ante otros niveles de gobierno
- El alcalde es miembro y preside el Concejo Municipal y tiene el poder de proponer legislación, vetar la legislación (excepto cualquier acción del concejo municipal para destituir al administrador municipal), desempeñar votaciones y convocar sesiones especiales del concejo municipal
- El alcalde nombra a los miembros de las comisiones y juntas consultivas ciudadanas, con el consentimiento del ayuntamiento

¿QUIÉN SE ESTÁ POSTULANDO PARA ALCALDE?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186

Ocupación actual: Entrenador de natación

Educación: Bachillerato en Artes de Texas A&M en Liderazgo Agrícola, Educación y comunicación

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser se negó a contestar nuestra encuesta.

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188

Ocupación actual: Director y dueño de una empresa consultora de urbanismo y desarrollo comunitario.

Educación: Bachillerato en Artes de la Universidad de Texas en El Paso y Maestría en Artes en Planificación regional y de la ciudad de la Universidad de Rutgers

Experiencia en la Vida Pública: Carlos Gallinar fue el director ejecutivo en el departamento de instalaciones y construcción en el distrito escolar de El Paso (EPISD) del 2016-2018, director comisario de planificación para la Ciudad de El Paso del 2012-2016 y gerente de plan integral para la ciudad de El Paso del 2010-2012. Carlos Gallinar también fue presidente de la comisión de planificación de la ciudad de El Paso en el 2009 y notario del 2005-2009. El Sr. Gallinar también trabajó como director de planificación comunitaria en La Fe Clinic del 2005-2010.

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

Ocupación actual: Retirado

Experiencia en la Vida Pública: Dino Martínez se jubiló en el 2002, después de haber hecho 28 años de servicio militar y de haber trabajado en el departamento de defensa.

Ms. Veronica 'Vero' Carbajal 190

Ocupación actual: Abogada de interés público

Educación: Bachillerato en Artes en Estudios Medioambientales de Brown University y JD de la escuela de leyes en the University of Texas at Austin

Experiencia en la Vida Pública: Verónica Carbajal ha trabajado de abogada en el Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid los últimos 15 años.

Hon. Dee Margo 191

Ocupación actual: El Honorable Dee Margo es el alcalde actual de la Ciudad de El Paso, puesto que asumió en el 2017.

Educación: Bachillerato en Artes en Historia y Ciencias Económicas de la Universidad de Vanderbilt.

Experiencia en la vida pública: El alcalde Margo actualmente es el vicepresidente de seguridad fronteriza en la Conferencia de Alcaldes de los EEUU en el comité de justicia social y criminal. También, el alcalde Margo es el co-presidente del comité de la respuesta al COVID-19 y de la equidad de salud de la misma organización. El alcalde Margo fue nombrado por el Gobernador de Texas para servir en el Comité de supervisión del instituto de investigación y prevención del Cáncer en Texas. También es miembro del comité ejecutivo de la Liga Municipal de Texas.

El Sr. Margo fue un miembro republicano de la cámara de diputados del estado de Texas, representando el Distrito 78 del 2011-2013. El alcalde Margo ha servido como el presidente de la junta de administradores del distrito escolar de El Paso (EPISD Board of Managers). El alcalde Margo también ha trabajado como asistente civil en la secretaría del ejército.

El alcalde Margo fue presidente de la cámara de comercio de la Ciudad de El Paso. El alcalde Margo también fue uno de los fundadores del Borderplex Alliance.

PREGUNTAS PARA LOS CANDIDATOS

Le pedimos a cada candidato para alcalde sus respuestas a las siguientes preguntas en forma larga y corta.

P.1 Saliendo de la pandemia mejorados

La pandemia ha afectado a todos en la frontera pero sobre todo ha impactado más a las personas de bajos recursos, las familias de la clase trabajadora, los migrantes y a las personas de color. Si usted fuera alcalde, ¿cuáles políticas específicas buscaría implementar para una recuperación más equitativa para la población más vulnerable y para asegurar que la frontera salga de la crisis actual fortalecida?

Sr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186

Para poder empezar a recuperarnos, necesitamos trabajar juntos. Mi principal prioridad es fortalecer nuestra comunidad desde adentro empezando por la educación. Junto nos aseguraremos que aquellos que nos ayudarán a reconstruir El Paso estarán preparados para hacerlo a través de más acceso a la educación.

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser se negó a contestar nuestra encuesta.

Sr. Carlos Gallinar 188

Los latinos son afectados por el COVID-19 de una manera desproporcionada y por esto hemos visto sufrir a nuestra comunidad fronteriza. Los administradores de la ciudad nos han fallado. Ya han pasado más de 100 días desde que El Paso ha tenido un director de la salud pública. Las estadísticas que tenemos son poco confiables y no hay transparencia en las concentraciones que podrían proteger a nuestra comunidad. Haber sido el primer candidato en pedir una orden de resguardo, mi administración basará sus decisiones en la ciencia y los hechos. Nombrar un director de la salud pública y votar por la transparencia serían mis primeras órdenes como alcalde. A través de un departamento con todos los fondos necesarios y completo podemos empezar a combatir la pandemia y las causas raíz de manera más eficaz. Nuestra comunidad y sus miembros vulnerables saldremos fortalecidos a largo plazo.

Sr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

Yo crearé un contrato con el estado de Texas para proveer procedimientos operativos estándares para detectar el COVID-19 y usarlos cada día laboral.

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190

El 12 de marzo del 2020, yo le propuse a la ciudad de El Paso que se enfocara en la prevención del COVID-19 en los asilos de ancianos, las instituciones de salud, las prisiones y en los centros de detención migratoria por su vulnerabilidad al virus dado que el distanciamiento social y el flujo de aire no son posibles por su diseño. Además, las personas que se encuentran en estos lugares son más susceptibles al COVID-19 o son empleados con muy pocas protec-

ciones. La ciudad no ha proporcionado la ayuda necesaria a estos lugares. Mi estrategia sería enfocar nuestros esfuerzos en lugares como estos para implementar protocolos de seguridad a través de los fondos del CARES Act. Los fondos del CARES Act (\$119 millones de dólares) serían usados para mantener a nuestra comunidad informada, administrar exámenes y tener más infraestructura para rastrear casos del COVID-19, proteger a los trabajadores de los negocios esenciales y de alto riesgo, imponer medidas de precaución y cerrar negocios no-esenciales y aquellos que no cumplen con las medidas de salud pública y por último asegurar que todos aquellos que necesitan ayuda financiera tengan acceso a ella (por ejemplo los alquileres, dueños de negocios chicos, y los padres de familia).

En mi carrera como abogada con el Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc., he trabajado a lado de organizaciones comunitarias para proveer asistencia de rentas. En este momento, no han habido los suficientes aplicantes para hacer esta ayuda posible. Como alcalde, prometo trabajar con líderes de la comunidad para identificar las barreras impuestas y para facilitar el proceso de aplicar. Posiblemente, podríamos utilizar a aquellos quienes su trabajo con la ciudad ha sido suspendido para ayudar a aquellos que quieren aplicar.

Hon. Dee Margo 191

La recuperación económica es la principal prioridad para recuperarnos de esta pandemia. Esto incluye asegurarnos que nuestra población más vulnerable tenga acceso a los recursos necesarios.

P.2 Solidaridad racial

El año pasado nuestra comunidad sufrió un ataque terrorista basada en ideas racistas y nuestro país sigue luchando para asegurar que las comunidades de personas de color tengan igualdad y dignidad incluyendo en los ámbitos de la fuerza policial y la justicia. Si usted fuera alcalde, ¿cuáles pasos específicos tomaría para combatir el racismo sistemático en la frontera?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186

Necesitamos reconstruir las estructuras departamentales, implementar un proceso neutral para el empleo y contratar a más profesionales de medio tiempo. Esto ayudará a mejorar sus habilidades ya adquiridas.

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser se negó a contestar nuestra encuesta.

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188

En mi candidatura, he delineado un plan para el alojamiento más equitativo del presupuesto y reformas para nuestro departamento policial. Este plan delinea la desmilitarización de la policía, la terminación a las políticas del uso de fuerza y un comité de vigilancia liderado por ciudadanos entre otras propuestas. También debemos empezar a liderar estas cuestiones y tener una voz unida en la municipalidad. Como alcalde, mis prioridades serán el acceso a parques seguros, servicios

juveniles, programas para la salud mental para personas individuales y familias, comodidades recreacionales como rutas de excursión y del ciclismo, el arte y la cultura y oportunidades de empleo que paguen un salario digno.

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

Asignar representantes de todos los departamentos gubernamentales locales, estatales y federales. Estos representantes deben ser entrenados para reconocer las cuestiones del acoso sexual, el racismo, etc. Entender e implementar las políticas de cero tolerancia en el lugar de trabajo. Se deben tomar medidas extremas para prevenir estos problemas.

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190

Es nuestro deber combatir la ignorancia que los grupos de la supremacía blanca usan para justificar sus asaltos verbales, políticos y físicos en contra de las personas de color. Debemos proteger a nuestros barrios Latinx históricos de ser destruidos asignándoles estatus protegido. Debemos construir un espacio formal para el centro cultural mexico-americano en lugar de una arena de deportes que usa el 80% de los fondos de los bonos. Nuestros líderes elegidos deben salir en contra de las políticas racistas e inhumanas a nivel federal. El departamento policial (EPPD) no puede guardar prejuicios raciales en contra de nuestra comunidad afro-america y debemos trabajar al lado de la comunidad negra antes de comenzar a implementar cualquier plan. También nos debemos basar en las estadísticas que señalan disparidades en el alojamiento, el empleo, la educación, el acceso al cuidado de la salud y sentencias penales basadas en la raza, el color de su piel, origen nacional. Debemos escuchar e incluir a nuestra comunidad negra en El Paso asegurar que nuestros servicios de la ciudad incluyendo programas culturales, es incluyente de manera significativa. Debemos procurar justicia medioambiental y protestar en contra de EPISD mientras que siguen exponiendo a sus alumnos a más contaminación atmosférica con el cierre arbitrario en el Chamizal, en donde el 99.1% de la comunidad son personas de color. Debemos reemplazar todos nuestros monumentos locales y nombres de escuelas que rinden homenaje a opresores racistas, incluyendo la estatua de Juan de Oñate.

Hon. Dee Margo 191

Mientras yo sea alcalde, el racismo nunca será permitido. La resolución EP Strong establece un sistema nuevo para reportar incidentes que busca eliminar disparidades raciales en los arrestos y otros actos de acción policial.

P.3 Los retos medioambientales

Este verano pasado fue uno de los más calurosos en la historia de nuestra frontera. Si usted fuera alcalde, cuál sería su plan para una respuesta de la ciudad para combatir el calentamiento global. ¿Cómo aprovechará el papel de liderazgo de la ciudad para alejar a nuestra comunidad de los combustibles fósiles y

prácticas como el fracking hacia prácticas sustentables que protejan el medio ambiente?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186

Sé de energía solar, microrredes y baterías. Los proyectos distritales producirán energía y generarán empleos, haciendo de nuestra ciudad el mayor productor de energía posible.

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser negó contestar nuestra encuesta.

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188

El Paso es la segunda ciudad del país que se calienta más rápido. Y El Paso sigue siendo la ciudad más grande de Texas sin un plan en contra del cambio climático. Es por eso que mi primera iniciativa política sería una Estrategia de Cambio Climático para El Paso (<https://carlosformayor.com/climate-change>). Seamos la Ciudad del Sol no solo de nombre, sino en la práctica. El Paso puede liderar en energía solar y renovable, construir la granja solar más grande del país, incentivar la instalación de paneles solares, modernizar nuestro transporte público para crear un sistema que sea accesible, eficiente y equitativo, y aumentar las opciones de transporte público que incluyen calles más seguras para peatones y ciclistas. Como alcalde, me uniré a Ciudades C40 y The Climate Mayors y liderará el camino hacia la resiliencia climática. El Plan El Paso, un plan maestro galardonado para la ciudad, se centró en la sostenibilidad. Al cambiar las prioridades en el ayuntamiento hacia estos elementos, podemos aprovechar la ciudad hacia comunidades más ecológicas.

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

Debe haber una necesidad o un estudio realizado sobre lo que puede ser más adecuado para esta ciudad y los cambios climáticos que afectan a nuestra ciudad y respaldar el estándar estatal y federal para ayudar a reducir los efectos.

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190

Las emisiones de combustibles fósiles en la central eléctrica, la refinería y otros sitios industriales y de fuentes móviles (tráfico vehicular y comercial en carreteras y puentes), deben reducirse a temperaturas más bajas. El Paso Electric es uno de los principales consumidores de agua. Las unidades de aire acondicionado refrigerado consumen más electricidad que los enfriadores de pantano. Si bien el aire refrigerado se promueve como una alternativa de conservación de agua a los enfriadores de pantano, acabamos de cambiar el consumo de agua del sitio residencial / comercial a la planta de energía. Debemos reducir nuestro consumo de electricidad en general y aumentar nuestra producción de energía solar. Dado que la Ciudad pasó por alto la municipalización y, por lo tanto, el control de la producción de energía solar de EPE, debe tomar medidas alternativas como el uso de energía solar en edificios de propiedad de la ciudad y alumbrado público; climatización de edificios de propiedad de la ciudad e incentivos para climatización de edificios públicos y privados, facilitando la instalación de paneles solares por parte de los propietarios al acelerar el proceso de permisos e inspección; abogando por regulaciones favorables a la energía solar en el estado. Debemos reducir las emisiones de los vehículos. No podemos apoyar la expansión de la I-10 por el centro. Necesitamos transporte público gratuito, fomentar el trabajo a distancia e incentivar a los trabajadores a utilizar el transporte público. También debemos acelerar el tráfico en los puentes abogando por la expansión de SENTRI / carriles exclusivos para viajeros.

Hon. Dee Margo 191

Es una prioridad de la ciudad buscar legislación para incentivos de energía solar de la legislatura del estado. Los incentivos estatales actuales para el uso de energías alternativas se aplican principalmente a la energía eólica.

P.4 Desarrollo económico integral

A veces escuchamos que el costo necesario del desarrollo económico en El Paso es el desplazamiento de comunidades más vulnerables, la gentrificación y la pérdida de nuestros vecindarios históricos. Como alcalde, ¿cómo perseguirá un desarrollo económico de base amplia que brinde oportunidades significativas de trabajo con salarios dignos, proteja nuestro patrimonio cultural e incluya la participación de todos?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186

La ciudad le ha dado la espalda a nuestra raíz más profunda y está sufriendo. Esa zona se puede rejuvenecer sin la necesidad de derribar residencias. Podemos mejorar esas comunidades y lo haremos.

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser negó contestar nuestra encuesta.

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188

Nuestras estrategias de desarrollo económico deben cambiar. Como alcalde, mis prioridades para el crecimiento económico serán: combatir el cambio climático, diversificar nuestra economía lejos de los restaurantes de comida rápida y centros de llamadas, y proteger nuestros bienes naturales y culturales. El Paso puede crear una economía de ecoturismo y patrimonio cultural, podemos crear un sendero regional para caminatas y bicicletas que conecte todos los vecindarios y Mission Valley.

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

Me gustaría visitar a nuestros miembros de colegios / universidades para ver lo mejor de sus posibles ideas. Graduarse y avanzar con las ideas innovadoras en este espectro. En resumen, utilizando el apoyo estudiantil de la escuela secundaria, artículos de boletos multiculturales, de artes y manualidades vendidas y hechas, compartiendo artes y manualidades, apoyando y participando juntos.

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190

El éxito de nuestro desarrollo económico debe medirse no solo por la cantidad de dinero que ganan los habitantes de El Paso, sino también por su poder adquisitivo. Los componentes clave de mi plan de desarrollo económico serán: 1) usar incentivos fiscales para crear empleos bien remunerados para los habitantes de El Paso, no para enriquecer a millonarios o subsidiar la construcción de edificios privados; 2) ayudar a los trabajadores apoyando programas que preparen a los trabajadores para trabajos bien remunerados; financiar guarderías asequibles para familias trabajadoras; WiFi gratuito y accesible en toda la ciudad; 3) apoyar el crecimiento de las pequeñas empresas con un enfoque en el medio ambiente, las artes, el turismo patrimonial y la tecnología. Podemos vender nuestra ciudad sin vender a nuestros trabajadores, el medio ambiente o los contribuyentes. Debemos analizar de cerca los incentivos fiscales para las empresas que buscan invertir en El Paso. Quiero las mismas o mejores oportunidades laborales que tenía cuando fui contratada por Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.: un buen salario, pago de préstamos estudiantiles, licencia por enfermedad pagada, atención médica y una fuerza laboral sindicalizada. No podemos esperar menos. Además, debemos dedicar e invertir dichos incentivos fiscales a empresas locales de producción propia que mantendrán sus ganancias aquí.

Voter Guide 2020

Hon. Dee Margo 191

Desde que me convertí en su alcalde, hemos agregado 4,155 nuevos empleos netos con \$ 808 millones en inversiones de capital. Eso es \$ 300 millones más de inversión con 1,500 nuevos puestos de trabajo más que la administración anterior.

P.5 Una comunidad de migrantes

El Paso tiene una noble tradición de brindar hospitalidad a solicitantes de asilo y migrantes que buscan una vida mejor en nuestras fronteras. Como alcalde, ¿qué papel de liderazgo tomará en el debate nacional sobre la reforma migratoria integral?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186

La reforma migratoria debe ocurrir y será una voz muy fuerte a favor de que suceda. Mientras tanto, me aseguraré de que aquellos que buscan una vida mejor sean tratados con humanidad.

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187

Oscar Leeser negó contestar nuestra encuesta.

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188

Trabajando con nuestros socios locales que están liderando el esfuerzo para servir a nuestra comunidad de migrantes y refugiados, estableceremos una ventanilla única para apoyar a los migrantes, proveedores de servicios y promover la comprensión pública de nuestra región a través de una Oficina de Asuntos de Inmigrantes. Como alcalde, lucharé por una reforma migratoria integral y humana. El Paso merece tener voz en las decisiones que se toman en Washington sobre nuestra comunidad.

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189

En primer lugar, no cambie lo que está resultando mejor para los solicitantes de asilo. Limite el apoyo que brindamos para no exceder nuestros presupuestos. La reforma puede ser algo bueno si nuestra parte es trabajar junto con otros que quieren avanzar hacia un futuro y una vida más constructivos, NO destructivos. Ejercer y contar con el apoyo del Jefe de Fronteras y Aduanas. Sin quitarle la responsabilidad ni poniendo a la Patrulla Fronteriza fuera de contexto.

Ms. Veronica Carbajal 190

Como alcalde, seré una firme partidaria de la reforma migratoria integral, así como de las políticas humanitarias de seguridad fronteriza que no violen nuestras propias reglas o tratados internacionales. No será el tipo de líder que permanece en silencio mientras los migrantes latinoamericanos, incluidos los niños, son separados de sus familias y obligados a dormir en las rocas debajo de uno de nuestros puentes en lugar de estar alojados en el lado oeste de la ciudad porque El Paso La Cámara de Comercio descubre que no encajan en el perfil de su comunidad. Nunca invitaría a las mismas personas que implementaron estas políticas horribles, inhumanas y racistas a honrar a las víctimas de un tiroteo motivado por el odio racial contra nuestra comunidad latina. Al principio de mi administración, trabajaré con organizaciones sin fines de lucro locales para establecer un plan que pueda implementarse si tenemos alguna crisis migratoria en el futuro. Un componente de este plan podría incluir el establecimiento de centros de acogida de inmigrantes como se hizo en San Antonio para que no coloquemos toda la carga sobre las organizaciones sin fines de lucro locales.

Hon. Dee Margo 191

He estado abogando al Gobierno Federal por una reforma migratoria integral que incluya un camino hacia la ciudadanía para los beneficiarios de DACA y siempre abogaré por nuestra comunidad binacional.

P.6 Santidad de la Vida

En enero de 2020, el alcalde de El Paso emitió una proclama en apoyo del Día Nacional de la Santidad de la Vida Humana. ¿Apoyará proclamas similares en apoyo de las organizaciones pro-vida locales que acompañan a las mujeres embarazadas en embarazos de crisis?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- [En Contra](#)

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Se Negó a contestar

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- [En Contra](#)

MR. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- [A Favor](#)

Ms. Verónica Carbajal 190- [En Contra](#)

Hon. Dee Margo 191- [A Favor](#)

P.7 Identificación del Municipio

¿Apoya las tarjetas de identificación municipales para la población inmigrante de El Paso?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- [A Favor](#)

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Se Negó a contestar

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- [A Favor](#)

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- [A Favor](#)

Ms. Verónica Carbajal 190- [A Favor](#)

Hon. Dee Margo 191- [En Contra](#)

P.8 Arena del Centro

¿Apoya la terminación del proyecto de la arena deportiva del centro o su reubicación lejos de los vecindarios históricos?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- [A Favor](#)

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Se Negó a contestar

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- [A Favor](#)

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- [A Favor](#)

Ms. Verónica Carbajal 190- [A Favor](#)

Hon. Dee Margo 191- [En Contra](#)

P.9 Fracking

¿Apoya el generador de gas natural de 228 megavatios planificado de El Paso Electric Company, llamado "Newman 6", que generará energía a partir de gas fracturado (fracking)?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- [En Contra](#)

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Se Negó a contestar

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- [En Contra](#)

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- [En Contra](#)

Ms. Verónica Carbajal 190- [En Contra](#)

Hon. Dee Margo 191- [En Contra](#)

P.10 Democracia

¿Apoya límites adicionales en las contribuciones de campaña para las elecciones a la alcaldía y al concejo municipal?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- [A Favor](#)

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Se Negó a contestar

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- [A Favor](#)

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- [A Favor](#)

Ms. Verónica Carbajal 190- [A Favor](#)

Hon. Dee Margo 191- [En Contra](#)

P.11 Policía Comunitaria

¿Apoya la expansión de los equipos de intervención en crisis del Departamento de Policía de El Paso, que responden a emergencias que involucran a personas con enfermedades mentales?

Mr. Calvin Zielsdorf 186- [A Favor](#)

Hon. Oscar Leeser 187- Se Negó a contestar

Mr. Carlos Gallinar 188- [A Favor](#)

Mr. Dean 'Dino' Martinez 189- [A Favor](#)

Ms. Verónica Carbajal 190- [A Favor](#)

Hon. Dee Margo 191- [A Favor](#)

Oración de Discernimiento

Invoca la presencia de Dios. Recuerda con gratitud los dones que Dios te ha dado y cómo el amor divino sostiene nuestra comunidad fronteriza y nuestro mundo. Considera lo que te da sentimientos de gratitud, alegría y emoción.

Invoca al Espíritu. Considera las necesidades de aquellos en nuestra comunidad, nuestro país y el mundo que son más vulnerables, ya sea al racismo, la pobreza u otros tipos de exclusión. ¿Cómo está Dios presente en tu lucha? ¿Cómo te está llamando el Espíritu para que respondas? Toma el tiempo necesario para notar sus sentimientos, ansiedades, miedos y esperanzas. Conversa con Dios sobre todo esto honestamente y reconoce la forma en que el Espíritu te está llevando a considerar hacer.

Confía. Llama a Dios para que dirija tus intenciones y deseos hacia la construcción del bien común y una sociedad donde cada uno de nosotros, y todos juntos, podamos prosperar y vivir a la altura de nuestro llamado como hijos/hijas de Dios. Considera cómo responderás de nuevo a la invitación de participar en la construcción del Reino de Dios, incluso a través de tu voto.

Visita www.HopeBorder.org para leer la [Guía de Votación Fronteriza 2020](#) completa. La guía para votantes fue creada y diseñada por Hope Border Institute y el Obispo Mark J. Seitz de la Diócesis de El Paso específicamente para personas de fe en El Paso.

Disponible tanto en inglés como en español, la [Guía de Votación Fronteriza 2020](#) incluye importantes preguntas de reflexión e información crítica a medida que los votantes comienzan a emitir sus votos para las elecciones del 2020, así como consejos sobre cómo votar de manera segura durante la pandemia de COVID-19.

Is Mandating a COVID-19 Vaccine Ethical?



Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

Virginia State Health Commissioner, Dr. Norman Oliver, told a local news station in August 2020 that he planned to mandate COVID-19 immunizations for Virginians once a vaccine becomes available to the public. The following day, the Governor, Ralph Northam, pulled rank on the Commissioner and announced there would be no vaccine mandate after all. The Health Department walked back the Commissioner's earlier comments while the Governor's Office issued a statement focusing on vaccine accessibility and fair distribution, not a mandate.

Virginia law, nevertheless, does empower the Commissioner to issue a vaccine mandate under certain conditions. Virginia has a religious exemption for vaccines generally, but not if the state declares an "emergency or epidemic of any disease of public health importance for which a vaccine exists." In the emergency situation, the only exemption

would be for serious medical reasons, i.e. the vaccine would be detrimental to the health of the recipient, as certified by a physician.

State legislators have been pushing to update the Virginia law to include a religious exemption in an emergency declaration.

The contentious discussions in Virginia raise broader questions about vaccine mandates and exemptions.

It can be helpful to distinguish local vaccine mandates from universal ones.

A local mandate means an immunization is required for services or employment, insisting, for example, that children be vaccinated prior to admission to the local school, or workers in a hospital system be compliant with Centers for Disease Control immunization schedules as a condition for employment.

A universal mandate, meanwhile, involves a demand that all residents of a particular geographical area, such as a township, county, state or country be immunized.

Generally speaking, vaccinations should not be universally mandated, considering the unique manner in which a vaccine can impose itself upon the inner workings of the human body, and in consideration of the potentially complex set of risks

that may accrue.

Especially for newly-developed vaccines with uncertain profiles of efficacy, adverse events, and long-term consequences, universal mandates are ethically problematic.

Only in the face of a highly virulent and deadly pathogen, with few or no alternative treatments available — and it would be doubtful whether any vaccine for COVID-19 could ever qualify in this way — might a broader, universal-type mandate become justifiable.

Even in such high risk situations, however, only a "soft universal mandate" would be justifiable, one that allowed for at least three exemptions to be liberally available to the populace: a conscience exemption, a religious exemption, and as noted earlier, a medical exemption. These exceptions provide the basis for appropriate "opt outs" to occur, and for basic human freedoms to be duly safeguarded.

A local vaccine mandate to ensure the safety of a school or work environment can be acceptable, and not unduly coercive, in part because no one is compelled to seek employment in the field of healthcare, nor to be educated in one specific school setting. Also, exemptions are oftentimes available within schools or certain healthcare settings.

How would a religious exemption differ from a conscience exemption?

A religious exemption would apply if the teachings of the faith of the individual to be vaccinated held that vaccines in general were immoral and contrary to God's will, as might be the case for members of the Christian Science Church founded by Mary Baker Eddy. Since there is no Catholic teaching that the reception of vaccines, including those that rely on fetal cell lines from abortions that happened long ago, is sinful, Catholics cannot claim a religious exemption from the requirement of immunization.

A conscience exemption, meanwhile, would refer to the situation in which an individual in conscience believed that it was immoral to be vaccinated.

Some individuals might claim a conscience exemption if they were convinced, even following extensive safety and efficacy testing, that the risks of being inoculated outweighed the potential benefits.

It is Catholic teaching that one must follow one's informed judgment of conscience even if one is in error because the conscience is our last best judgment about what is right or wrong.

Some Catholics might claim a conscience exemption out of a mistaken but sincerely held

conviction that vaccinations themselves are always wrong, or that it is always immoral to receive vaccines made out of cell lines from abortions when that is the only option available.

Some states and jurisdictions do not distinguish between religious and conscience exemptions. They only make available a religious exemption, by which they often intend to include and subsume under the same heading the exercise of conscientious objection.

In sum, state-sponsored or legislative coercion through a universal vaccine mandate raises ethical concerns, especially when appropriate exemptions are unavailable.

Health officials should instead seek to educate those under their authority, through careful and patient explanation, about the importance of receiving a vaccine, so they might freely choose to do so on their own initiative.

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](http://fathertad.com).

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Thanking God With Our Deeds



Janet M. Crowe

Thanksgiving has too long been associated with stuffing turkeys and ourselves. Yet, there is a nice tradition heard around many tables when those smelling the delightful aromas take a moment to share why they are thankful. Typically, the "things" being mentioned as "what I'm most thankful for" are just that – things. But, sometimes, someone goes a bit deeper and is thankful for their life, their family, and other such nice feelings.

This year, let's take up the challenge to go even deeper and actively use our own blessings to bless the lives of others also. I recently witnessed examples of this "thankfulness in action" at a memorial service offered to dignify the lives of approximately 40,000 babies who lost their lives at the former Hill Top abortion center.

During Southwest Coalition

for Life's memorial service, two women gave powerful testimonies of their own very personal experiences related to this abortion facility. The last names of these strong women are purposely not listed here in order to protect their privacy.

Jackie is a young woman who faced an unplanned pregnancy two years ago and did not know where to turn for the help she needed. "I thought that by going to this (Hill Top) clinic, my life would go back to normal, but I wasn't thinking straight," Jackie said. After a sleepless night, she decided not to go through with the abortion. "Leaving the clinic was the best decision I ever made I remember the workers looking at me with ugly faces knowing that I wasn't going to make the decision to abort It (abortion) would have killed me inside. I would have fallen into a depression and been unable to continue on."

Abortion advocates always emphasize the struggles of raising a child and the negative aspects on how one's life is changed by becoming a parent. Rather than being taken in by the pro-abortion propaganda, Jackie was, thankfully, able to find assistance from Guiding Star El Paso, one of the many

organizations that help women encountering difficulties during pregnancy and long after their babies are born. As Jackie's now two-year-old son Andy played in front of the podium, she described her life with him, "Andy is the love of my life and I could not imagine my life without him I am so glad I have him to hold in my arms."

Holding her son, Jackie shared her joy by announcing, "Finally, Hill Top is gone, and no more babies will be taken away here."

After entering an abortion facility, most women's stories do not end as happily as Jackie's.

Ester remembers the exact date, January 19, 1998, her life changed. "I was eighteen-years-old when I walked into Hill Top. I was a scared young girl who thought she only had one choice. Walking in with a bright future ahead of me and walking out broken, confused and dead inside like my soul had been ripped out."

For thirteen years after the abortion, she said that she just existed while silently suffering the depression, regret, and trauma of post abortion syndrome. Finally, in 2011, she found healing and forgiveness at a Rachel's Vineyard retreat that, Ester said, "actually saved my life."

Ester suffered for years from something advertised as an easy fix, a simple procedure. Twenty-two years later, she still grieves for the baby boy she lost. However, she has felt God's loving forgiveness and has also been able to forgive herself.

In a letter she wrote to her aborted son, whom she named David, Ester said, "My heart will always long to touch you and hold you. I am so sorry that I was not strong enough to fight for your life. I am sorry that I allowed your life to be ripped from my womb. I am sorry for allowing myself to be guided by people who did not have your best interests or my interests at heart."

Ester finally found healing and the strength to do more than simply exist, she found the strength to live again. Yet, it would seem logical that she would want to walk away from all the pain and suffering, to pretend it never happened. Instead, she also found meaning in her life, as she explained in the letter to her son, "I will not stop speaking out against abortion. Women need to know what I did not know that day. How they will be injured and wounded by abortion."

Ester also showed her love for others as she said, "Today I

stand here with joy in my heart, knowing that no other women will be hurt here (at Hill Top), and no more babies will lose their lives here. Thank you for coming here and standing with the thousands of lives lost in this place."

Sharing the transformation of her life from one of pain and agony to one filled with life and love was a powerful testimony. Even more powerful was the thankfulness she shared in knowing that no grief and agony would happen to others, at least not at this one horrible place.

Ester and Jackie opened their hearts and were thankful that others would be saved from suffering and death. More than simply rejoicing, both women and their families go even farther as they continue to speak out and stand up for the lives of those who cannot speak for themselves. Life can triumph over death every day if we use our thankfulness for the life that God has given us and put it to practical use, as these two women have done, in saving the lives of those who need us to speak up for them and to stand beside them in their struggles. Will you thank God for your life with actions rather than just words?

Memorial Held At Former Hill Top Abortion Center

By Janet Crowe
Staff Writer, Rio Grande Catholic

More than one hundred people gathered, while also practicing the safeguards of social distancing and wearing masks, in a memorial service on October 8 to commemorate the lives of the unborn children who died at the Hill Top abortion center on East Schuster in El Paso during its thirty-six years of operation from 1984 to its closure earlier this year.

"We have gathered at this place (Hill Top abortion center) where unspeakable crimes against humanity have taken place," prayed Father Mark Salas, Associate State Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus. "We have gathered in prayerful remembrance and to offer You (God) thanks that, at least here, the killing has come to an end."

Organizer Mark Cavaliere, Executive Director of Southwest Coalition for Life, stated that this was "not a protest or a rally. Today is a memorial because in this building ... there have been, to our best estimates, approximately forty thousand babies who have lost their lives right here. That is a travesty and these babies have gone unrecognized. Tonight, we are recognizing these babies and their lost lives."

Father Salas described abortion as a time when parents "felt they had to make the choice of silencing a heartbeat The heartbeat is one of the most beautiful things that God has given us. When two heart-

beats go in (to the abortion facility) and only one heartbeat comes out, it is heartbreaking and a tragedy."

During the memorial service, a baby's cry was heard echoing across the top of the hillside overlooking downtown El Paso. The child cried out at not being allowed to run and play during the prayers and scripture readings. The symbolism of the crying child was not lost on those present at the memorial service held at the former abortion facility where thousands of babies died without ever being allowed a chance to run or play. Several people held their hands to their hearts or wiped away tears.

In acknowledging the sounds of the baby's cries, Cavaliere said that an infant's cry at the moment of birth is the most beautiful sound to the new parents. However, Cavaliere continued, "Here at Hill Top, there have been forty thousand babies who have not been able to cry out. Even their silence had been silenced. In every crisis situation, a person cries out, but victims of abortion cannot cry out to ask for help."

Comparing abortion to Herod's massacre of the innocents was clear in the Scripture reading from the gospel of Matthew, "Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah, the prophet: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more.'"

Four hundred roses had been distributed to those attending the

memorial. Each rose represented one hundred babies whose lives were lost during the years that Hill Top abortion facility operated. To dignify the symbolic burial for the babies lost to abortion, people attending the memorial were encouraged to remove one petal from each rose and place the petals in the small casket donated by Perches Funeral Home. The roses were then attached to the fence near the abortion facility in a similar tribute as that displayed in the movie Unplanned which portrayed the true-life story of Abby Johnson and the closure of the Planned Parenthood facility where she had been the director before becoming a vocal pro-life advocate.

Father Salas reminded those present that for many years during the abortion facility's operation, there had also been many sidewalk counselors who dedicated themselves to prayer outside its doors

and who "showed so many a path out of fear and hopelessness." As the first Scripture reading from Revelations stated, "God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more and crying and pain will be no more."

Closing the memorial service portion of the evening, Father Salas offered a thankful prayer, "Lord, Our God, You have indeed opened our hearts to Your presence here with us today as we have gathered in prayerful remembrance before this now closed Hill Top abortion facility. We thank You yet again that by Your grace active and working in the hearts and minds of so many that this day has finally arrived and that at least here the killing has come to an end."

Cavaliere called the closure of the abortion facility a victory, "no more babies dying, no more women crying," at the closed abortion facility but he reminded those

present that this was only one facility and two more abortion centers still operated in the El Paso area. To end the evening on a note of hope for the future, the new Stork Van, a mobile ultrasound unit, was blessed and placed into service in the work of changing a culture of death to a culture of life in the southwest borderland. Women will now be given the opportunity to see their growing preborn babies within their wombs at no cost to the mothers so they can make truly informed decisions about the future of their children.

For those wishing to inspect the newest tool in pro-life ministry, the Stork Van will be available at Southwest Coalition for Life's fifth annual pro-life gala to be held on December first at Grace Gardens. Details and tickets for the event can be obtained online at www.southwest.life or by calling (833) 388-5433.

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Creer A Pesar De Todo



Padre Wilson Cuevas

En las crisis más agudas es cuando debo compartir palabras de luz y esperanza que infundan animo al desalentado. Esta es una buena época a pesar de los sombríos diagnósticos que hacen los pessimistas. El futuro se puede mirar con optimismo sin hacer caso a los que solo vaticinan tragedias y caos.

A lo largo de la historia el ser humano ha sido amigo de injuriar su presente con la óptica del desencanto; nos gusta decir que todo pasado fue mejor. El mismo San Pablo que es un profeta de la esperanza, recogió este sentir popular en su carta a los Efesios al decir: "Los tiempos son malos" (Ef. 5,16). Sin embargo, una mirada serena nos muestra que las nubes del mal no alcanzan a tapar la luz del bien y la verdad. Por todas partes encontramos seres bondadosos, guiados por el amor y comprometidos en valiosas obras de servicio. Sus vidas nos llenan de esperanza y entusiasmo.

La humanidad afronta problemas graves, un caso típico es esta pandemia del COVID-19, que ha trastornado la vida de todos los seres humanos; pero Dios está por encima de nuestras fallas. Nuestra misión es sembrar la esperanza y construir un mundo más justo, con la certeza de que Dios es el Señor de la historia y saca bienes de los males. Confiamos a pesar de todo y de todos.

Mi vida depende de mis esperanzas. Solo puedo avanzar

si alejo las dudas y domino el desaliento. Solo puedo progresar con una fe firme y una confianza sustentada en la perseverancia y reforzada en el entusiasmo. Hoy y siempre debo apreciar mis dones, hacer inventario de todo lo positivo y creer que con Dios en mi corazón todos los caminos se abren. Con una tal entereza fue que el escritor argentino Jorge Luis Borges sobrelevo la ceguera en los últimos años de su vida. Qué bueno convertir en una canto de alegre fe estas palabras suyas: "Bendita seas esperanza, memoria del futuro, olorcito de lo por venir, pilote de Dios que a todos nos invita a ser dioses". Como él, puedo seguir adelante impulsado por la esperanza. Voy a insistir porque vivir es un milagro a pesar de los problemas.

En cierta ocasión visitamos una escuela. Conseguimos crear desde el principio un ambiente de mucha amistad y entusiasmo. Cánticos, dinámicas, historias y chanzas con la participación de todos. Al final o casi al final de la visita, invitamos a los niños al acto de agradecimiento colectivo a Dios, a los papás y a los profesores y a cuantos tenían que ver con su educación. Mientras todos los niños gritaban a pleno pulmón "Gracias, Dios mío, por los ojos, por los oídos, por las manos que nos distes", se acercó la profesora con una niña sordomuda en los brazos, diciendo: - Padre, ella también quiere hablar. En medio de un silencio total, cargado de simpatía y de compasión, la niña sordomuda, acerco su boca al micrófono y soltó un clamor confuso, las dos palabritas "muchas gracias". Preguntamos al grupo de niños: Que dijo la niña? Muchas gracias, gritaron todos en coro. Tomamos la niña en brazos y dijimos a los demás que



hablaban y oían: "Esta niña agradece por aquello que no tiene. Y ustedes tienen todo eso."

"Doy gracias a Dios sin cesar por todos, a causa de la gracia de Dios que nos ha sido otorgada en Cristo Jesus, en El hemos sido enriquecidos en todo..." (I Cor. 1,4-9)

Cada amanecer hay que reforzar la fe en Dios y aprender a decirle todos los días: Gracias,

Señor por todo, por las cosas buenas que he disfrutado hoy y por las cosas malas, que me recuerdan cuanto bien me falta por hacer en este mundo...reforzar la fe en la humanidad y seguir creyendo en los hombres y mujeres a pesar de los problemas. El mundo no se cesa de avanzar, gracias al amor de los sencillos y a la bondad ilimitada de tantos seres iluminados. Sus nombres rara

vez son conocidos y no hacen noticias como los artistas o los poderosos, pero son ellos los que mueven al mundo con el poder del amor.

El bien le gana la guerra al mal gracias a la entrega de las madres, a la honradez de la gente humilde, a la labor del campesino y a la ternura de los niños. La luz vence a las tinieblas porque hay más amor que odio; hay muchos que aman lo que hacen y son más los amigos de la vida, de la solidaridad y de la paz, que los propulsores de la violencia. Todos nosotros podemos hacer nuestras las palabras del científico y benefactor Albert

Schweitzer: "Justamente porque confió en el poder de la verdad y del espíritu, creo en el futuro de la humanidad". Aunque el mal se destaque tanto, con-

fiemos en la magia del amor, el canto de la bondad y la fuerza de la esperanza.

No hay que temer a las crisis sino a la actitud pasiva o angustiosa frente a las mismas, ya que toda crisis enseña algo y es un llamado a corregir errores o a llenar vacíos. No debemos perder energías en culparnos o culpar a otros por las fallas, sino esmerarnos en buscar soluciones. Es cierto lo que afirma Frank Crane: "Los grandes hombres hacen de sus errores escalones hacia el éxito". Aprendamos mucho de este tiempo de la pandemia; aprendamos de los fracasos y errores, propios y ajenos y aprenderemos a vivir antes de morir y ser agradecidos en todo momento y circunstancia de la vida. Creer y agradecer a Dios de quien proviene todo bien!

Believe In Spite Of Everything

During the toughest crisis is when I must share words of light and hope that encourage the discouraged. This is a good time despite the grim diagnoses that pessimists make. The future can be looked at with optimism without heeding those who only predict tragedy and chaos.

Throughout history human beings have been prone to disdaining their present through an eye of disenchantment; we like to say that everything was better in the past. St. Paul who is a prophet of hope, displayed this popular feeling in his letter to the Ephesians by saying, "The times are bad" (Eph. 5:16). However, a serene look shows us that the clouds of evil cannot obscure the light of goodness and truth. Everywhere we find kind, lovingly guided by love beings engaged in valuable works of service. Their lives fill us with hope and enthusiasm.

Humanity faces serious problems, a typical case is this COVID-19 pandemic; it has upset the lives of all human beings, but God is above our failings. Our mission is to sow hope and

build a more just world, with the certainty that God is the Lord of history and draws good from evil. Let us retain our faith in spite of everything and everybody.

My life depends on my hopes. I can only move forward by removing the doubts and overcoming discouragement. I can only progress with a firm faith and trust based on perseverance and reinforced with enthusiasm. Today and always I must appreciate my gifts, take stock of all that is positive, and believe that with God in my heart all paths are open. It was with such fortitude that the Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges endured blindness in the last years of his life. How good it is to turn into a song of joyful faith these words of his: "Blessed be hope, memory of the future, fragrance of what is to come, guide from God that invites us all to be gods". Like him, I can move on driven by hope. I'm going to persevere because living is a miracle despite all the problems.

We once visited a school.

We managed to create from the beginning an atmosphere of great friendship and enthusiasm. Songs, dynamics, stories, and jokes with the participation of all. At the end or near the end of the visit, we invited the children to an act of collective thanks to God, to their parents and teachers and to all who had to do with their education. As all the students screamed at full throttle

"Thank you, my God, for our eyes, our ears, our hands that you gave us," the teacher approached with a deaf-mute girl in her arms, saying: - Father, she also wants to talk. Amid total silence, filled with sympathy and compassion, the deaf-mute girl approached with her mouth to the microphone and released a confused cry, the two words "thank you." We asked the children: What did the girl say? Thank you, they all shouted in chorus. We took the girl in our arms and told the others who could hear and speak: "This girl is grateful for what she does not have. And you have all this."

"I thank God unceasingly for

all, because of the grace of God that has been bestowed in Christ Jesus, in Him we have been enriched in all..." (I Cor. 1.4-9)

Every new day we must reinforce our faith in God and learn to say to Him: Thank you

Lord, for everything, for the good things, which I have enjoyed today and for the bad things, which remind me how much good I have left to do in this world. Reinforce faith in humanity and continue to believe in men and women despite the problems. The world never ceases to move forward thanks to the love of the simple of heart and the boundless kindness of so many enlightened beings. Their names are rarely known and they don't make news like artists or the powerful, but they are the ones who move the world with the power of love.

Good wins the war on evil thanks to the dedication of mothers, to the honesty of humble people, the work of laborers, and the tenderness of children. Light overcomes darkness because there is more love than hate;

there are many who love what they do and are friends of life, solidarity and peace, more so than the promoters of violence.

All of us can make our own the words of scientist and benefactor Albert Schweitzer: "Because

I have confidence in the power of truth, and of the spirit, I have confidence in the future of mankind." Even when evil seems more prominent, let us trust the magic of love, the song of goodness and the strength of hope.

Crises must not be feared but only the passive or distressing attitude towards them, because every crisis is a call to correct mistakes or fill voids. We must not waste energy in blaming ourselves or blaming others for failures, but strive to seek solutions. Great men make of their mistakes steps to success. Let us learn much from this time of the pandemic, let us learn from failures and mistakes, ours and others', learn to live before you die and be grateful at all times and circumstances of life. Believing is to thank God who does everything right!

Pope Francis: ‘The world has a profound thirst for peace’

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

Rome, Italy, Oct 20, 2020 / 02:00 pm MT (CNA).- Pope Francis affirmed the signal importance of peace at an interreligious gathering Tuesday on Rome’s Capitoline Hill.

“We need peace. More peace. We cannot remain indifferent. Today the world has a profound thirst for peace. In many countries, people are suffering due to wars which, though often forgotten, are always the cause of suffering and poverty,” Pope Francis said Oct. 20.

“To put an end to war is a solemn duty before God incumbent on all those holding political responsibilities. Peace is the priority of all politics. God will ask an accounting of those who failed to seek peace, or who fomented tensions and conflicts. He will call them to account for all the days, months and years of war endured by the world’s peoples,” the pope said.

Pope Francis was joined by representatives of the world’s major religions in his appeal for peace in the Campidoglio Square, designed by Michelangelo. The Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, and Buddhist representatives each gave speeches, lit a candle in a candelabrum, and signed a scroll containing an “Appeal for Peace.”

Immediately before this interreligious meeting, the pope prayed with other Christian leaders in the neighboring Basilica of Santa Maria in Aracoeli on the Capitoline Hill.

“From the cross forgiveness poured forth and fraternal love was reborn: the cross makes us brothers and sisters,” Pope Francis said in his message at the ecumenical prayer service.

“Let us ask the crucified God to grant us the grace to be more united and more fraternal. When we are tempted to follow the way of this world, may we be reminded of Jesus’ words: ‘Whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel’s will save it,’ he said.

Candles were lit in the basilica as the Christians prayed together for peace in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Somalia, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, and the Holy Land.

Prayer candles were also lit for an end to violence throughout Central America, the persecution of Christians in Burkina Faso, attacks in northern Mozambique, violence in Venezuela, the conflict in Mali, the violence perpetrated by the drug gangs in Mexico, and instability in Lebanon.

The Christian leaders also

prayed for an end to tensions in Belarus, on the Korean peninsula, in the Caucasus region, and between India and Pakistan, as well as for the peace agreements signed in Colombia and South Sudan.

Concurrent gatherings to pray for peace were held by Muslims, Jews, and Buddhists, before everyone came together for the interreligious event on the Capitoline Hill.

The theme of the event, organized by the Sant’Egidio lay Catholic community, was “No one is saved alone,” a phrase that comes from Pope Francis’ most recent encyclical, *Fratelli tutti*. Pope Francis expanded upon this line in his message at an ecumenical prayer in the basilica before the ceremony:

“The closer we become to the Lord Jesus, the more we will be open and ‘universal,’ since we will feel responsible for others. And others will become the means of our own salvation: all others, every human person, whatever his or her history and beliefs. Beginning with the poor, who are those most like Jesus,” the pope said.

“The great archbishop of Constantinople, St. John Chrysostom, once wrote: ‘If there were no poor, the greater part of our salvation would be overthrown,’” Pope Francis added.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bar-

tholomew I of Constantinople, Haim Korsia, Chief Rabbi of France, Mohamed Abdelsalam of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, and Zen Buddhist Shoten Minegishi all spoke at the interreligious event.

In his speech, Abdelsalam, the Muslim General Secretary of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, condemned the recent beheading of a Paris school teacher in an Islamist terror attack.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella and other Italian government authorities were also present at the event.

“Rome and Italy are proud to be once again a crossroads in the dialogue of peace,” Mattarella said.

The Community of Sant’Egidio said that the event was inspired by the first World Day of Prayer for Peace, organized by St. John Paul II in 1986 in Assisi with 160 other religious leaders.

“The Assisi Meeting and its vision of peace contained a prophetic seed that by God’s grace has gradually matured through unprecedented encounters, acts of peacemaking, and fresh initiatives of fraternity,” Pope Francis told the religious and civil leaders.

“Although the intervening years have witnessed painful events, including conflicts, terrorism and radicalism, at times

in the name of religion, we must also acknowledge the fruitful steps undertaken in the dialogue between the religions,” the pope said.

The “Appeal for Peace” signed by each of the religious leaders at the event said: “On this Capitoline Hill, in the wake of the greatest conflict in history, the nations that had been at war made a pact based on a dream of unity that later came true: the dream of a united Europe. Today, in these uncertain times, as we feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that threatens peace by aggravating inequalities and fear, we firmly state that no one can be saved alone: no people, no single individual!”

“Wars and peace, pandemics and health care, hunger and access to food, global warming and sustainable development, the displacement of populations, the elimination of nuclear threats and the reduction of inequalities: these are not matters that concern individual nations alone ...

Let us pray to the Most High that, after this time of trial, there may no longer be ‘others,’ but rather, a great ‘we,’ rich in diversity. The time has come to boldly dream anew that peace is possible, that it is necessary, that a world without war is not utopian. This is why we want to say once more: ‘No more war.’”

El Papa Francisco: “El Mundo Tiene Una Profunda Sed De Paz”

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

Roma, Italia, 20 de octubre de 2020 / 02:00 pm MT (CNA).- El Papa Francisco afirmó la importancia de la paz en una reunión interreligiosa el martes en el Capitolio de Roma.

“Necesitamos la paz. Más paz. No podemos permanecer indiferentes. Hoy el mundo tiene una profunda sed de paz. En muchos países, la gente está sufriendo debido a las guerras que, aunque a menudo olvidadas, son siempre la causa del sufrimiento y la pobreza”, dijo el Papa Francisco el 20 de octubre.

“Poner fin a la guerra es un deber solemne ante Dios que incumbe a todos los que tienen responsabilidades políticas. La paz es la prioridad de toda política. Dios pedirá cuentas a aquellos que no buscaron la paz, o que fomentaron tensiones y conflictos. Les pedirá cuentas de todos los días, meses y años de guerra sufridos por los pueblos del mundo”, dijo el Papa.

El Papa Francisco se unió a los representantes de las principales religiones del mundo en su llamamiento a la paz en la Plaza del Campidoglio, diseñada por Miguel Ángel. Los representantes cristianos, musulmanes, judíos, sijs y budistas dieron discursos, encendieron una vela en un candelabro y firmaron un pergamo que contenía un “Llamamiento por la Paz”.

Inmediatamente antes de esta reunión interreligiosa, el Papa rezó con otros líderes cristianos en la vecina Basílica de Santa María en Aracoeli en la colina del Capitolio.

“Desde la cruz se derramó el perdón y renació el amor fraternal: la cruz nos hace hermanos y hermanas”, dijo el Papa Francisco en su mensaje en el servicio de oración ecuménica.

“Pidamos al Dios crucificado que nos conceda la gracia de estar más unidos y ser más fraternal. Cuando estemos tentados a seguir el camino de este mundo, que se nos recuerden las palabras de Jesús: ‘Quien quiera salvar su vida la perderá; y quien pierda su vida por mí y por el Evangelio la salvará’, dijo.

Se encendieron velas en la basílica mientras los cristianos oraban juntos por la paz en Afganistán, la República Democrática del Congo, Iraq, Libia, Nigeria, República Centroafricana, Somalia, Siria, Ucrania, Yemen y Tierra Santa.

También se encendieron velas de oración para poner fin a la violencia en toda América Central, a la persecución de los cristianos en Burkina Faso, a los ataques en el norte de Mozambique, a la violencia en Venezuela, al conflicto en Malí, a la violencia perpetrada por las bandas de narcotraficantes en México y a la inestabilidad en el Líbano.

Los dirigentes cristianos también oraron por el fin de

las tensiones en Belarús, en la península de Corea, en la región del Cáucaso y entre la India y el Pakistán, así como por los acuerdos de paz firmados en Colombia y el Sudán meridional.

Se celebraron reuniones simultáneas para rezar por la paz por parte de musulmanes, judíos y budistas, antes de que todos se reunieran para el evento interreligioso en la Colina del Capitolio.

El tema del evento, organizado por la comunidad católica laica de Sant’Egidio, fue “Nadie se salva solo”, una frase que proviene de la encíclica más reciente del Papa Francisco, *Fratelli tutti*. El Papa Francisco amplió esta línea en su mensaje en una oración ecuménica en la basílica antes de la ceremonia:

“Cuanto más nos acerquemos al Señor Jesús, más abiertos y ‘universales’ seremos, ya que nos sentiremos responsables de los demás. Y los demás se convertirán en el medio de nuestra propia salvación: todos los demás, cada persona humana, cualquiera que sea su historia y sus creencias. Empezando por los pobres, que son los que más se parecen a Jesús”, dijo el Papa.

“El gran arzobispo de Constantinopla, San Juan Crisóstomo, escribió una vez: ‘Si no hubiera pobres, la mayor parte de nuestra salvación sería derrocada’”, añadió el Papa Francisco.

El Patriarca Ecuménico

Bartolomé I de Constantinopla, Haim Korsia, Rabino Jefe de Francia, Mohamed Abdelsalam del Comité Superior de la Fraternidad Humana, y el Budista Zen Shoten Minegishi hablaron en el evento interreligioso.

En su discurso, Abdelsalam, el Secretario General musulmán del Comité Superior de la Fraternidad Humana, condenó la reciente decapitación de un profesor de escuela de París en un atentado terrorista islámico.

El presidente italiano Sergio Mattarella y otras autoridades del gobierno italiano también estuvieron presentes en el evento.

“Roma e Italia se enorgullecen de ser una vez más una encrucijada en el diálogo de la paz”, dijo Mattarella.

La Comunidad de Sant’Egidio dijo que el evento se inspiró en la primera Jornada Mundial de Oración por la Paz, organizada por San Juan Pablo II en 1986 en Asís con otros 160 líderes religiosos.

“El Encuentro de Asís y su visión de la paz contenía una semilla profética que, por la gracia de Dios, ha madurado gradualmente a través de encuentros sin precedentes, actos de pacificación y nuevas iniciativas de fraternidad”, dijo el Papa Francisco a los líderes religiosos y civiles.

“Aunque los años transcurridos han sido testigos de acontecimientos dolorosos, como conflictos, terrorismo y

radicalismo, a veces en nombre de la religión, también debemos reconocer los fructíferos pasos dados en el diálogo entre las religiones”, dijo el Papa.

El “Llamamiento por la Paz” firmado por cada uno de los líderes religiosos en el evento dijo: “En esta colina del Capitolio, tras el mayor conflicto de la historia, las naciones que habían estado en guerra hicieron un pacto basado en un sueño de unidad que luego se hizo realidad: el sueño de una Europa unida. Hoy, en estos tiempos inciertos, al sentir los efectos de la pandemia COVID-19 que amenaza la paz al agravar las desigualdades y el miedo, afirmamos firmemente que nadie puede salvarse solo: ¡ningún pueblo, ningún individuo!”

“Las guerras y la paz, las pandemias y la atención sanitaria, el hambre y el acceso a los alimentos, el calentamiento global y el desarrollo sostenible, el desplazamiento de poblaciones, la eliminación de las amenazas nucleares y la reducción de las desigualdades: no son asuntos que conciernen únicamente a las naciones individuales...

Roguemos al Altísimo para que, después de este tiempo de prueba, ya no haya más “otros”, sino un gran “nosotros”, rico en diversidad. Ha llegado el momento de soñar de nuevo audazmente que la paz es posible, que es necesaria, que un mundo sin guerra no es utópico. Por eso queremos decir una vez más: “No más guerra”.