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Delegation from USCCB visits the Borderland



Bishop Brendan Cahill of the Diocese of Victoria, Bishop John Stowe of the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, Bishop Peter Baldicchino from the Diocese of Las Cruces, Bishop Mark Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso, Bishop Oscar Cantú of the Diocese of San Jose and Father Robert Stark, Vatican Representative on Migrants and Refugees sat for a Press Conference to bring awareness to border issues in Downtown El Paso. **Story on page 4. Photo by Chris Velasquez, Diocese of Las Cruces**

Knights of Columbus Donate 100k



The Knights of Columbus has donated \$100,000 to help meet the humanitarian needs of recent immigrants arriving at the Texas border with Mexico. **Story on Page 7.**

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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Happy Wife, Happy Life

October is a long month in my life. October 5th, my wife and I will celebrate six incredible years as a married couple, and on October 31st, we will celebrate my daughter Annie's second birthday.

So in celebration of these milestones in my family's life, I would like to take this opportunity to share a story of what the last six years of being a husband and the last 2 years of being a father have been.

Since my wedding day, I have certainly heard all of the quoted advice when it comes to marriage. My favorite, however, is always, "Happy Wife, Happy Life." I have endeavored to live by that saying.

With that in mind, I'd like to tell a story that more or less sums up my marriage to my wife and the birth of our daughter.



Fernie Ceniceros

My wife and I found out we were pregnant in the Spring of 2017, and the doctors gave us a due date of November 27th. For most of our pregnancy with our daughter Annie, my job as Dad and husband was to make sure my wife had a cheeseburger whenever those cravings came; to occasionally sleep on the very corner of the bed to give her a comfortable night of sleep.

Well, sometime around the

third week of October, my wife was getting to a point where she was needing to see her doctor pretty regularly. Of course, this being my first rodeo, I thought nothing of it. As far as I was concerned, we had another month of pregnancy before Annie made her arrival.

Well, apparently Annie had other plans. The Thursday before Annie's birthday, I got a phone call from my wife. Very casually, she told me, we might have the baby in the next couple of days. I think she was just trying to be calm, but at the time Preeclampsia was a scary possibility.

We had orders to report to the doctor's office on Monday morning. At the appointment, the doctor very calmly informed my wife and I that our daughter's birthday would be the next day: Tuesday, October 31st.

As the doctor walked out

of the room, I happily (and foolishly) looked at my wife with a smile and said, "Hey, a Halloween Baby!" My wife became very distraught and said, "Oh honey, no! A holiday birthday? Go tell the doctor to change the date! Tell him to wait till Wednesday!" The pregnancy hormones were working on overtime and she was very adamant that I talk to the doctor. Happy wife, right? So, of course, I made my way out of the room. Immediately, I saw the doctor and ask very awkwardly, "Doc, do you think we can wait until Wednesday?" I think he knew why I was there and just glanced over and casually said,

"No." "Great. Thanks, Doc."

Before I knew it, it was 7:21 AM the next day, and my life was changed forever. Anne Marie was here. Two days later, we got to put our

two-day old daughter in a car seat to take her home. Our first drive home as a family.

My fondest memory will always be when I secured my daughter in the carseat and my wife, sitting in the passenger seat, lovingly looked at me and said with tears in her eyes, "Now we are three."

In the last two years since her birthday, every August, my wife starts planning for Annie's fall birthday extravaganza! I think she will always be more excited about Annie's birthday than Annie. It's a happy time in my family's life every year now.

Happy Anniversary Chrissy, and Happy Birthday Annie. Dad will always work to keep you both happy because you both make me the happiest Dad and husband ever! This blessing has been the highlight of my life! Thanks be to God!

Esposa Feliz, Vida Feliz

El 5 de octubre, mi esposa y yo celebraremos seis años increíbles como una pareja casada, y el 31 de octubre celebraremos el segundo cumpleaños de mi hija Annie.

Entonces, para celebrar estos hitos en la vida de mi familia, me gustaría aprovechar esta oportunidad para compartir una historia de lo que han sido los últimos seis años de ser esposo y los últimos 2 años de ser padre.

Desde el día de mi boda, ciertamente escuché todos los consejos citados sobre el matrimonio. Sin embargo, mi favorito es siempre: "Esposa feliz, vida feliz". Me he esforzado por vivir según ese dicho.

Con eso en mente, me gustaría contar una historia que resume más o menos mi matrimonio con mi esposa y el nacimiento de nuestra hija.

Mi esposa y yo descubrimos que estábamos embarazadas en la primavera de 2017, y los médicos nos dieron una fecha de vencimiento del 27 de noviembre. Durante la mayor parte de nuestro embarazo con nuestra hija Annie, mi trabajo como papá y esposo era asegurarme de que mi esposa tuviera una hamburguesa con queso cada vez que llegaran esos antojos; dormir ocasionalmente en la esquina de la cama para darle una noche de sueño confortable.

Bueno, alrededor de la tercera semana de octubre, mi esposa estaba llegando a un punto en el que necesitaba ver a su médico con bastante regularidad. Por supuesto, siendo este mi primer rodeo, no pensé en nada. En lo que a mí respecta, tuvimos otro mes de embarazo antes de que Annie llegara.

Aparentemente Annie tenía otros planes. El jueves antes del cumpleaños de Annie, recibí una llamada telefónica de mi esposa. Muy casualmente, me dijo, podríamos tener el bebé en los próximos días. Creo que ella solo estaba tratando de estar tranquila, pero en ese momento la preeclampsia era una posibilidad aterradora.

Tuvimos órdenes de informar al consultorio del médico el lunes por la mañana. En la cita, el médico nos informó muy tranquilamente a mi esposa y a mí que el cumpleaños de nuestra hija sería el día siguiente: martes 31 de octubre.

Cuando el médico salió de la habitación, contemplé (y tontamente) a mi esposa con una sonrisa y le dije: "¡Hon, un bebé de Halloween!" ¿Un cumpleaños de Halloween? ¡Ve y dile al doctor que

cambie la fecha! ¡Dígale que espere hasta el miércoles!" Las hormonas del embarazo estaban trabajando en horas extras y ella estaba muy firme en hablar con el médico. Feliz esposa, ¿verdad? Entonces, por supuesto, salí de la habitación. Inmediatamente, vi al médico y le pregunté muy incómodo: "Doc, ¿cree que podemos esperar hasta el miércoles?" Creo que él sabía por qué estaba allí y solo miró y dijo casualmente: "No". Gracias Doc.

Antes de darme cuenta, eran las 7:21 AM del día siguiente, y mi vida cambió para siempre. Anne Marie estuvo aquí. Dos días después, tuvimos que poner a nuestra hija de dos días en un asiento de seguridad para llevarla a casa. Nuestro primer viaje a casa en familia.

Mi mejor recuerdo siempre será cuando asegure a mi hija

en el asiento de seguridad y mi esposa, sentada en el asiento del pasajero, me miró con amor y dijo con lágrimas en los ojos: "Ahora somos tres".

¡En los últimos dos años desde su cumpleaños, cada agosto, mi esposa comienza a planear el gran espectáculo de cumpleaños de otoño de Annie! Creo que ella siempre estará más entusiasmada con el cumpleaños de Annie que Annie. Es un momento feliz en la vida de mi familia cada año ahora.

Feliz aniversario Chrissy y feliz cumpleaños Annie. ¡Papá siempre trabajará para mantenerlos felices a los dos porque ambos me hacen el papá y el esposo más felices de todos! ¡Esta bendición ha sido lo más destacado de mi vida! ¡Gracias a Dios!

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INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH

People are shocked by all these mass shootings. Sadly, I am not. It's not just the presence in our communities of weapons of war designed to kill many in seconds, or the time our children spend on violent videogames. Both of these realities undoubtedly add to the gravity of the problem, but they don't explain it all.

Pope Saint John Paul II had powerful insight into the violence and evil afflicting modern society. In his 1995 encyclical letter, "Evangelium Vitae" or "The Gospel of Life", he wrote: "In fact, while the climate of widespread moral uncertainty can in some way be explained by the multiplicity and gravity of today's social problems, and these can sometimes mitigate the subjective responsibility of individuals, it is no less true that we are confronted by an even larger reality, which can be described as a veritable

structure of sin. This reality is characterized by the emergence of a culture which denies solidarity and in many cases takes the form of a veritable 'culture of death'." (EV, 12)

God spoke to Moses and invited the people of Israel to choose life (cf. Dt. 30:19). Jesus announced, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full," (John 10:10). Yet we continue to ignore God's invitations and commands. Instead of life we continue to choose death. Again and again we choose death and the behaviors and attitudes that lead to death.

The culture of death insinuates itself into our lives in myriad ways.

We wish death on those in the way of our success, on our enemies and those we don't understand. We offer death to the unborn child who appears to threaten our lifestyle and plans. We choose death for our

selves when life seems to slip from our control. We play with death by assaulting the character and reputation of others, by abandoning difficult relationships, by forgetting the projects that brought us together.

We give into the lure of sin and embrace the slow death of self-destructive habits. We smoke, we drink to excess, we abuse drugs and medication powerful drugs, and we overeat.

In a culture that no longer offers us deep meaning, that blinds us to the beauty of life and the sacred, we can feel frustrated, alone and drifting. And this might even provoke us to strike out in rage, with whatever weapon at hand.

But there is another way. The culture of death is not inevitable. Death need not reign in this world and certainly does not have the last word. Christ came into the world for life. But we must choose Him.

Ahora Elige la Vida

La gente está muy conmovida por todos estos tiroteos masivos recientes. Lamentablemente, yo no. No es solo la presencia en nuestras comunidades de armas de guerra diseñadas para matar a muchos en segundos, o el tiempo que nuestros niños pasan en videojuegos violentos. Ambas realidades indudablemente se suman a la gravedad del problema, pero no lo explican todo.

El Papa San Juan Pablo II tuvo una visión poderosa de la violencia y el mal que aflige a la sociedad moderna. En su carta encíclica de 1995, "Evangelium Vitae" o "El Evangelio de la vida", escribió: "De hecho, aunque el clima de incertidumbre moral generalizada puede explicarse de alguna manera por la multiplicidad y la gravedad de los problemas sociales de hoy, y estos a veces pueden mitigar la responsabilidad subjetiva de los individuos, no es menos cierto que nos enfrentamos a una realidad aún más grande, que puede describirse como una verdadera estructura de pecado. Esta realidad se caracteriza por el surgimiento de una cultura que niega la solidaridad y en muchos casos toma la forma de una verdadera "cultura de la muerte". (EV, 12)

Dios le habló a Moisés e invitó al pueblo de Israel a elegir la vida (cf. Dt. 30:19). Jesús anunció: "He venido para que tengan vida y la tengan en abundancia" (Juan 10:10). Sin embargo, seguimos ignorando las invitaciones y los mandamientos de Dios. En lugar de la vida, seguimos eligiendo la muerte. Una y otra vez elegimos la muerte y los comportamientos y actitudes que conducen a la muerte.



La cultura de la muerte se insinúa en nuestras vidas de innumerables maneras.

Deseamos la muerte a aquellos en el camino de nuestro éxito, a nuestros enemigos y a aquellos que no entendemos. Ofrecemos la muerte al feto que parece amenazar nuestro estilo de vida y nuestros planes. Elegimos la muerte por nosotros mismos cuando la vida parece escaparse de nuestro control. Jugamos con la muerte atacando el carácter y la reputación de los demás, abandonando las relaciones difíciles, olvidando los proyectos que nos unieron.

Nos entregamos al atractivo del pecado y aceptamos la muerte lenta de los hábitos autodestructivos. Fumamos, bebemos en exceso, abusamos de las drogas y medicamentos potentes, y comemos en exceso.

En una cultura que ya no nos ofrece un significado profundo, que nos ciega a la belleza de la vida y lo sagrado, podemos sentirnos frustrados, solos y a la deriva. Y esto incluso podría provocar que nos pongamos furiosos, con cualquier arma que tengamos a mano.

Pero hay otra manera. La cultura de la muerte no es inevitable. La muerte no

necesita reinar en este mundo y ciertamente no tiene la última palabra. Cristo vino al mundo por la vida. Pero debemos elegirlo. Debemos elegir el camino de la vida, el camino del amor que nunca deja de dar, el camino de la misericordia que nunca deja de perdonar.

Este octubre, los invito a unirse a la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos para observar el "Mes de Respeto a la Vida". Que este sea un momento de oración y conversión de corazones, un tiempo para que la Iglesia en El Paso vuelva a aprender el valor de La vida y la práctica de la gratitud por la vida.

Demasiado a menudo hemos elegido la muerte. ¡Este es el momento de elegir a Cristo! Elijamos el camino de la vida, el camino del amor que nunca deja de dar; El camino de la misericordia que nunca deja de perdonar. Moisés presentó ante el pueblo de Israel la elección y hoy lo hace por nosotros: "Hoy llamo a los cielos y a la tierra como testigos contra ti que he puesto ante ti vida y muerte, bendiciones y maldiciones. Ahora elija la vida, para que usted y sus hijos puedan vivir y puedan amar al Señor su Dios, escuchar su voz y aferrarse a él." (Dt. 30: 19-20)



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

We must choose the way of life, the way of love that never stops giving, the way of mercy that never stops forgiving.

This October, I invite you to join with the Church in the United States in observing "Respect Life Month." Let this be a time for prayer and conversion of hearts, a time for the Church in El Paso to re-learn the value of life and the practice of gratitude for life.

Too often we have chosen death. This is the time to choose Christ! Let us choose

the way of life, the way of love that never stops giving, the way of mercy that never stops forgiving. Moses set before the people of Israel the choice and he does it for us today: "This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him." (Dt. 30:19-20)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER

Raul Trigueros	10/5
Joe Molina	10/9
Frank R. Lopez	10/10
Robert S. Kobe	10/13
Peter Koo IL-MO (Extern)	10/15
Pablo Matta	10/15
Mark N.P. Salas	10/16
Michael Chesney, SJ	10/21
Miguel Briseño, OFM Conv.	10/23
Robert E. Mosher, SSC	10/30

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Faustino Ortiz-Suarez, MNM	10/7/2006
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RETIRED BIRTHDAYS

Richard Waiwood	10/16
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At US-Mexico Border, Bishops Emphasize Bonds of Faith and Family

By Jonah McKeown
Catholic News Agency

El Paso, Texas, Sep 26, 2019 / 11:15 am (CNA).- At a Mass and press conference held at the US-Mexico border in El Paso, Texas on Wednesday, bishops from the border region emphasized the importance of providing care for migrant families, especially those who share a common faith and baptism with American Catholics.

"These are baptized Christians. From the faith perspective, that's what we forget sometimes because we're so focused on the charity part of it," Bishop Brendan Cahill of the Diocese of Victoria, Texas told CNA Sept. 25.

"But these are baptized Catholics, so these are our brothers and sisters. So respecting national borders, respecting everything else, there's still a bond there through sacramentality."

The delegation of bishops, hosted by Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso, is visiting the border this week to meet migrants at aid centers and in the fields where many of them work. The visit was designed as a pastoral encounter with migrants and Catholic leaders of the Dioceses of Las Cruces, New Mexico, El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico. Five bishops were present at the Mass and press conference.

Fr. Robert Stark, Regional Coordinator of the Vatican's Section on Migrant and Refugees, was also in attendance. Pope Francis has declared Sunday, Sept. 29 as World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

Cahill celebrated the Mass in Spanish on Wednesday evening at the Centro de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos, located in South El Paso just a stone's throw from the border fence. The 8,000 square foot adobe-brown facility has for over 25 years provided aid for the thousands of migrant farmers who cross from Mexico to work in the United States every day.

The bishop related the story of a family he knows: A husband and father drives each day from Mexico across the border to New Mexico to farm, leaving at 3 am and arriving back home around 7 pm. He sleeps, and then does it again the next day.

Most chili farm workers are paid around 79 cents for each large bucket of chilis or onions picked.

"Over these past few days we've heard dozens of stories, but to me there's a similar theme to all of them...it's really all about family. It's about parents caring for their children, and I think for any of us that's our number one concern."

In Ciudad Juarez at the Casa del Migrante, Central American migrants are being housed in a shelter, but the threat to the families, and particularly mothers, still has impacted Bishop Cahill.

"As I listen to the migrant farm workers' stories, I hear challenges to keep the family together, opportunities for families because it is work and provides, so I think that has to be admitted that that's a good, but then to see what we can do even better."

Though the situation on both sides of the border is "overwhelming," Cahill emphasized Pope St. John Paul II's exhortation to pray for the family—not just one's own family, but for the holiness and wellbeing of all families.

"The experience of being on the border and listening to people's stories—and these are regular people—is that the family is always the forefront," he said.

"I want to pray for the family unit, that we protect mothers and fathers and children, and that they can be together. And that's what I noticed here on the border, a lot of economic forces, a lot of things challenging keeping the family together."

Seitz said at the press conference that it is unusual to have so many bishops gathered together around one particular theme outside of the regular bishops' meeting. The special focus of the visit, he said, is on farm workers.

"They're a quiet reality that have been passing through El Paso, staying in El Paso, moving out from El Paso for many decades here," Seitz said.

Seitz said the visit was designed to allow those who had not visited the border area before a chance to get a feel for the area, and a border situation that is "changing every day."

The Mass coincided with a vote taken in Congress Wednesday to block President Donald Trump's emergency declaration at the southern border, which is designed to divert funds from other projects to build a wall on the border with Mexico. The president is expected to veto Congress' action.

On Tuesday the bishops visited Ciudad Juarez to visit a large aid facility, as well as a visit to Corpus Christi parish, which is largely serving farm workers and their families. On Thursday, the bishops plan to take a visit to Hatch, New Mexico to meet farmers there who grow and pick the valley's world famous chilis.

The bishops also met with groups of Central American migrants in Ciudad Juarez who had been waiting in Mexico for a chance to cross the border.

"It's devastating to see that these dreams that migrants have, dreams that my own parents had as immigrants to the United States from Mexico some 60 years ago, and migrants continue with those dreams," said Bishop Oscar Cantu of San Jose, formerly bishop of Las Cruces.

"We know that they're coming not to take advantage of this wonderful, generous coun-



Bishop Brendan Cahill of the Diocese of Victoria presided over a mass at Centro Sin Fronteras in Downtown El Paso. A delegation from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops were in El Paso to bring attention to the needs on the border and the needs of migrant farm workers. **Photo by Fernie Ceniceros**

try, but rather to have an opportunity to work and to raise their families in safety and dignity."

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, apprehensions of "unaccompanied alien children" has risen by nearly 75% from May 2018 to May 2019. The rise in apprehensions is led by El Paso, which has seen a 323% rise in that period.

The rise in apprehensions of families is higher—463% across the board. El Paso's rate of apprehension of families rose 2,100%.

Bishop John Stowe of the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, formerly a franciscan priest who served in the diocese of El Paso, praised the work of Catholics in the diocese working to welcome migrants.

"The Diocese of El Paso has given an example for the whole country of how to welcome immigrants, how to love immigrants, how to clothe immigrants, how to provide shelter to immigrants, how to treat them as brothers and sisters and receive them here,"

The Department of Homeland Security announced new Migrant Protection Protocols in January, providing that migrants arriving without proper documentation "may be returned to Mexico and wait outside of the U.S. for the duration of their immigration proceedings, where Mexico will provide them with all appropriate humanitarian protections for the duration of their stay."

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2019/01/24/migrant-protection-protocols>

These policies, Stowe noted, have meant that tens of thousands of migrants are "stuck" on the Mexico side of the border, as asylum claims can take years to process.

"It was just months ago that thousands of people were

coming across the border, flooding this city, and they were received in shelters throughout this city by people of faith who reached out. Not only our Catholic Church but other churches in town, reaching out and serving them. That's a beautiful example for the whole country; it's what our nation was founded on, and it's specifically important for our Catholic Church."

In terms of practical actions the faithful in El Paso have taken, Seitz told CNA that the diocese in Oct. 2018 opened a shelter at the pastoral center, a "purely volunteer response," to deal with the large number of people passing through the city. The temporary shelter has since closed due to a drop in the number of migrants passing through.

"Right now, we've seen a huge drop off in the number of people coming because of enforcement actions in Mexico," Seitz noted.

"So what's happening is there's kind of a bottleneck in Ciudad Juarez, and we estimate that there are up to 20,000 people that are pretty much stuck there. They're afraid to go home, because that's where they're fleeing from...they're afraid to stay in Mexico, because most of them have faced violence there."

Robberies and kidnappings among the migrants waiting in Mexico are common, he said.

The Diocese of El Paso,

along with the The HOPE Border Institute in July initiated a Border Refugee Assistance Fund to send money to organizations working with migrants and refugees in Juarez and wherever there is a need in the region.

"Do we believe there is a usefulness to a border? Absolutely. The Church has not problem with that usefulness. But we also know that there are higher laws than the law that has to do with a nation's border."

"We are Catholic Christians, and we are citizens. If the two ever come into conflict, we need to be Catholic Christians first," Seitz told CNA.

The majority of the migrants that the Church in El Paso helps have already been processed by ICE and are awaiting their court date for asylum.

"The fact is that most of these people that are crossing, seeking asylum, are not breaking the law. U.S. and international law provide for asylum in cases where a person is being prosecuted. They're following the law that was established for people like our ancestors who came here seeking refuge...And we need to try and see things through the eyes of Jesus Christ and through the teachings of our Church. And those teachings should be clear when they say that if we encounter someone in need, we need to do what we can to help them."

"The Diócesis ofrece asistencia a las vi ctimas de abuso sexual

El Obispo Mark J. Seitz invita a cualquier persona que haya sido vi cima de abuso sexual por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o ministro de la iglesia, para que se comunique con la Coordinadora de Asistencia a Vi ctimas, Sra. Susan Martínez, LCSW, al teléfono 872-8465 o con la Cancillería a, 872-8407. La Iglesia desea sanar a toda persona que haya sido lastimada.



Knights of Columbus commit \$100k to assist refugees

New Haven, Conn. – The Knights of Columbus has donated \$150,000 to help meet the humanitarian needs of recent immigrants arriving at the Texas border with Mexico.

"The Knights are working to help meet the needs of new arrivals along the border as we do in thousands of different ways for people in need throughout our country and the world," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in announcing the gifts to the Catholic communities in Laredo and El Paso. "The dire needs of individual people must be addressed."

The gifts of \$100,000 to the Diocese of El Paso and \$50,000 to the Diocese of Laredo will be used to provide basic necessities starting from food and focusing especially on the needs of mothers and children.

The donations are the first phase of Anderson's pledge, made at the Knights' international convention in August, to commit at least \$250,000 in humanitarian aid for migrant shelters to help those in camps in each of the border states or in adjoining

Mexican communities.

In the Texas initiative, the K of C will partner with the dioceses to help supply shelters for migrants from throughout Central America and other nations.

Speaking about the donation, El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz said, "This inspiring commitment from the Knights of Columbus demonstrates that the ideals of Venerable Father McGivney, including serving Christ in the migrant and Christian solidarity with those in need, are precisely what our country needs right now in addressing the situation at the border."

Bishop Seitz established the Border Refugee Assistance Fund, which provides direct assistance to migrant shelters on El Paso's border with Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Those who wish to donate to the Border Refugee Assistance Fund may do so at the website for the Diocese of El Paso: www.elpasodiocese.org.

The Knights of Columbus has a long history of coming to the aid of those in need and those who are displaced, including most recently in the Middle East and Ukraine.



Bishop Mark Seitz meets and listens to migrant's stories of why they left their home countries in hopes of entering the US. *Photo by Fernie Ceniceros*

Caballeros de Colón se compromete a donar \$100k para ayudar a refugiados

New Haven, Conn. - Los Caballeros de Colón han donado \$150,000 para ayudar a satisfacer las necesidades humanitarias de los inmigrantes recientes que llegan a la frontera de Texas con México.

"Los Caballeros están trabajando para ayudar a satisfacer las necesidades de los recién llegados a lo largo de la frontera como lo hacemos de miles de maneras diferentes para las personas necesitadas en todo nuestro país y el mundo", dijo el Caballero Supremo Carl Anderson al anunciar los regalos a las comunidades católicas en Laredo y El Paso. "Deben abordarse las graves necesidades de las personas individuales"

Los obsequios de \$ 100,000 a la Diócesis de El Paso y \$ 50,000 a la Diócesis de Laredo se utilizarán para satisfacer las necesidades básicas a partir de los alimentos y enfocarse especialmente en las necesidades de las madres y los niños.

Las donaciones son la primera fase de la promesa de Anderson, realizada en la convención internacional de los Caballeros en agosto, de comprometer

al menos \$ 250,000 en ayuda humanitaria para refugios de migrantes para ayudar a quienes se encuentran en campamentos en cada uno de los estados fronterizos o en las comunidades mexicanas adyacentes.

En la iniciativa de Texas, de los caballeros se asociará con las diócesis para ayudar a proporcionar refugios para migrantes de toda América Central y otras naciones.

Hablando sobre la donación, el obispo de El Paso, Mark J. Seitz, dijo: "Este compromiso inspirador de los Caballeros de Colón demuestra que los ideales del Venerable Padre McGivney, incluido el servicio a Cristo en la solidaridad migrante y cristiana con los necesitados, son precisamente lo que nuestro país necesita ahora abordar la situación en la frontera".

El obispo Seitz estableció el Fondo de Asistencia Fronteriza para Refugiados, que brinda asistencia directa a los refugios de migrantes en la frontera de El Paso con Ciudad Juárez, México. Aquellos que deseen donar al Fondo de Asistencia para Refugiados de



Bishop Seitz listening to the story of how a migrant fled her home country looking for medical help for her son who was born premature. *Photo by Fernie Ceniceros*

la Frontera pueden hacerlo en el sitio web de la Diócesis de El Paso: www.elpasodiocese.org.

Los Caballeros de Colón tienen una larga historia de ayudar a los necesitados

y los desplazados, incluso más recientemente en el Medio Oriente y Ucrania.



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Father Fabian Marquez Finalist for Lumen Christi Award

Article Courtesy of
Catholic Extension

"I think today is his birthday," Diego's father said, with tears in his eyes. "We've been traveling so long, I'm not sure what day it is, but I think today is his birthday."

Inside a temporary immigrant and refugee shelter in El Paso, Texas, Diego's father was consoled by a priest named Father Fabian Marquez.

Diego and his father Miguel whose names have been changed to protect their privacy had recently fled Central America, along with two of Miguel's other children. Some 2,000 miles later they found themselves at the Catholic Pastoral Center in the Diocese of El Paso.

It was there, on a Wednesday during Advent, they met Fr. Fabian and the parishioners of El Buen Pastor Mission Church.

Father Fabian is the pastor of El Buen Pastor in the Sparks Colonia of El Paso, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Texas. Father Fabian has led the mission since 2015, serving a growing area with many new residents coming from Mexico.

Many members of the community are refugees and undocumented.

El Buen Pastor has long looked to Catholic Extension for financial assistance. Since 1999, Catholic Extension has sent nearly \$76,000 to support the church expansion and parish and priest salary subsidies.

Their lack of status and resources has not deterred the community from actively participating in parish life—including answering the call to serve others.

"We don't do this for the income. We do this for the outcome," Fr. Fabian said.

El Buen Pastor is active in social justice ministries. Each year they celebrate mass on the U.S.-Mexico border.

They prepare Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for families in need and take meals to immigrants and refugees temporarily sheltered in local assisted-living facilities.

"Father Fabian welcomes the neighbor, the poor and marginalized and teaches his congregation to do the same," said parishioner Rocio Valenzuela. "We follow our shepherd in welcoming our brothers and sisters who have made the 2,000-mile journey escaping violence, poverty, extortion, underemployment in search of better opportunities for them and their families in the United States."

Late last year, in response to the influx of asylum seekers, Bishop Mark Seitz opened the Catholic Pastoral Center to hundreds of immigrants in El Paso.

These immigrants, fleeing the violence and poverty of Central America, often present themselves to border agents and request asylum. After they are detained and processed, immigration officials release them to await their court hearings, where a judge will decide if their claim for asylum is legitimate.

Catholic Extension sent \$5,000 to the Center in 2018 as part of our Family Reunification Fund support and has historically supported many parishes, people, and ministries in the diocese that serve the immigrant population.

For months, Fr. Fabian and about 40 volunteers for El Buen Pastor have spent their Wednesdays at the Catholic Pastoral Center. They provide meals, clothing and cleaning supplies to the immigrants housed there. They clean the kitchen, restrooms, showers and sleeping areas. They welcome immigrants as they arrive from Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers, make travel arrangements for the asylum seekers, and drive them to bus stations and airports.

Bishop Seitz called the parishioners "prime examples of leadership roles in our community."

On many occasions, ICE officials give little or no notice before dropping off busloads of asylum seekers at the Center. Immigrants and refugees are rarely given an explanation or information about where they



Father Fabian Marquez ministering to the Flores family at the memorial outside of Wal-Mart in East El Paso.
Photo by Fernie Ceniceros

are being taken and why.

Liliana Esparza, the parishioner at El Buen Pastor who recounted Miguel's story, said that Wednesday in December was no different.

Miguel explained to Fr. Fabian, "I was in another line where they were being deported. One of the agents pushed me and my children to another line, and we were brought here."

When the bus arrived at the station, the parishioners sprang into action to process and feed everyone coming off the bus. That's when Miguel came to Fr. Fabian and told him it just might be Diego's birthday.

Father Fabian and the El Buen Pastor parishioners bought Diego a birthday cake and gift. Together they ate and sang Las Mañanitas, a traditional Latin American birthday song.

Afterwards, Miguel approached Fr. Fabian.

"I don't know why God put me in the line that led here," he said. "I was scared, but now I'm not. Thank you."

After refueling at the center for a few days, they

departed to be with relatives in another state, while they await their hearing for legal status in the United States.

Led by Fr. Fabian, the parishioners from El Buen Pastor have made it their personal intention to directly serve the needs of their kindred brothers and sisters in Christ.

"To know Father Fabian is to know compassion, kindness and love," Esparza said. "So great is Father's love for others, that one can't help but want to live by his example."

In early August, horror and tragedy struck an already beleaguered community. A gunman shot and killed 22 people in a targeted attack against Hispanic people and immigrants.

The New York Times reported that Fr. Fabian spent the next days with families. In the hours following the shooting, he sat with them as they waited on news from their loved ones, passing the excruciating minutes in prayer until law enforcement gave them the update. He was with them when they learned their loved ones had been killed.

Throughout that night and

into the morning, he prayed with 17 families. He vowed to attend 17 funerals.

Emotionally and physically exhausted, Fr. Fabian spent the week preparing for memorials and funerals, supporting grieving families, and standing in support for the Hispanic and immigrant communities of El Paso, all while caring for his own flock at El Pastor.

El Buen Pastor seeks to be in solidarity with these families who have traveled with their children in search of a better life.

"We are called to be present," Fr. Fabian said. "If we see with the eyes of faith, we can discover Christ in those in need."

For those seeking asylum, the path ahead is full of uncertainty. But this path, as unsure as its destination might be, is better than the poverty and violence these immigrants left behind. And it is at this point of their journey, past the peril but before the resolution, that the El Buen Pastor parish meets and comforts these travelers with dignity and respect.

Padre Fabián Márquez Finalista del Premio Lumen Christi

Artículo cortesía de Extensiones Católicas

"Creo que hoy es su cumpleaños", dijo el padre de Diego, con lágrimas en los ojos. "Hemos estado viajando tanto tiempo, no estoy seguro de qué día es, pero creo que hoy es su cumpleaños".

Dentro de un refugio temporal para inmigrantes y refugiados en El Paso, Texas, el padre de Diego fue consolado por un sacerdote llamado Padre Fabián Márquez.

Diego y su padre Migue, cuyos nombres fueron cambiados para proteger su privacidad, habían huido recientemente de

Centro América, junto con otros dos hijos de Miguel. Unas 2,000 millas después se encontraron en el Centro Pastoral Católico en la Diócesis de El Paso.

Fue allí, un miércoles durante el Adviento, donde se encontraron con el p. Fabián y los feligreses de la Iglesia Misionera El Buen Pastor.

El padre Fabián es el pastor de El Buen Pastor en la colonia Sparks de El Paso, uno de los barrios más pobres de Texas. El Padre Fabian ha dirigido la misión desde 2015, sirviendo a un área en crecimiento con muchos residentes nuevos que vienen de México.

Muchos miembros de

la comunidad son refugiados e indocumentados.

El Buen Pastor siempre ha buscado la ayuda financiera de Catholic Extension. Desde 1999, Catholic Extension ha enviado casi \$ 76,000 para apoyar la expansión de la iglesia y los subsidios salariales de la parroquia y el sacerdote.

Su falta de estatus y recursos no ha disuadido a la comunidad de participar activamente en la vida parroquial, incluida la respuesta al llamado a servir a los demás.

"No hacemos esto por los ingresos. Hacemos esto para el resultado ". Dijo Fabián.

El Buen Pastor es activo

en los ministerios de justicia social. Cada año celebran misa en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México.

Preparan canastas de alimentos de Acción de Gracias y Navidad para familias necesitadas y llevan comidas a inmigrantes y refugiados temporalmente alojados en instalaciones locales de vivienda asistida.

"El padre Fabian le da la bienvenida al vecino, a los pobres y marginados y le enseña a su congregación a hacer lo mismo", dijo el feligrés Rocio Valenzuela. "Seguimos a nuestro pastor al darles la bienvenida a nuestros hermanos y hermanas que han hecho el viaje de 2,000

millas para escapar de la violencia, la pobreza, la extorsión y el subempleo en busca de mejores oportunidades para ellos y sus familias en los Estados Unidos".

A fines del año pasado, en respuesta a la afluencia de solicitantes de asilo, el obispo Mark Seitz abrió el Centro Pastoral Católico a cientos de inmigrantes en El Paso.

Estos inmigrantes, que huyen de la violencia y la pobreza de Centro América, a menudo se presentan ante agentes fronterizos y solicitan asilo. Despues de ser detenidos y procesados, los funcionarios

Continúa en la página 7

Continúado de la página 6
de inmigración los liberan para esperar sus audiencias judiciales, donde un juez decidirá si su solicitud de asilo es legítima.

Catholic Extension envió \$ 5,000 al Centro en 2018 como parte de nuestro apoyo del Fondo de Reunificación Familiar y ha apoyado históricamente a muchas parroquias, personas y ministerios en la diócesis que sirven a la población inmigrante.

Durante meses, el p. Fabian y unos 40 voluntarios de El Buen Pastor pasaron sus miércoles en el Centro Pastoral Católico. Proporcionan comidas, ropa y artículos de limpieza a los inmi-

grantes alojados allí. Limpian la cocina, los baños, las duchas y las áreas para dormir. Reciben inmigrantes cuando llegan de los centros de detención de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas, hacen arreglos de viaje para los solicitantes de asilo y los llevan a las estaciones de autobuses y aeropuertos.

El obispo Seitz llamó a los feligreses "ejemplos principales de roles de liderazgo en nuestra comunidad".

En muchas ocasiones, los funcionarios de ICE dan poca o ninguna notificación antes de dejar en el Centro cargas de autobuses de solicitantes de asilo. A los inmigrantes y

refugiados rara vez se les da una explicación o información sobre a dónde los llevan y por qué.

Liliana Esparza, la feligrés de El Buen Pastor que relató la historia de Miguel, dijo que el miércoles de diciembre no fue diferente.

Miguel le explicó al p. Fabian: "Estaba en otra línea donde los deportaban. Uno de los agentes nos empujó a mí y a mis hijos a otra línea, y nos trajeron aquí".

Cuando el autobús llegó a la estación, los feligreses se pusieron en acción para procesar y alimentar a todos los que bajaban del autobús. Fue entonces cuando Miguel vino

al p. Fabián y le dijo que podría ser el cumpleaños de Diego.

El padre Fabián y los feligreses de El Buen Pastor le compraron a Diego un pastel de cumpleaños y un regalo. Juntos comieron y cantaron Las Mañanitas, una canción tradicional de cumpleaños latinoamericana.

Después, Miguel se acercó al p. Fabian.

"No sé por qué Dios me puso en la línea que condujo aquí", dijo. "Tenía miedo, pero ahora no. Gracias."

Después de reabastecerse de combustible en el centro durante unos días, partieron para estar con familiares en otro estado, mientras esperan su audiencia.

cia para obtener un estatus legal en los Estados Unidos.

Dirigido por el p. Fabián, los feligreses de El Buen Pastor han hecho su intención personal de servir directamente las necesidades de sus hermanos y hermanas en Cristo.

"Conocer al padre Fabián es conocer la compasión, la bondad y el amor", dijo Esparza. "Tan grande es el amor de Padre por los demás, que uno no puede evitar querer vivir con su ejemplo".

A principios de agosto, el horror y la tragedia golpearon a un ya asediado.

Charismatic Conference Highlights "One In The Spirit"

The annual El Paso Catholic Charismatic Conference is set for October 18 and 19 at Las Alas Center, 501 East Paisano. The event draws people from West Texas, Southern New Mexico, and some from as far as Arizona each year. The 2019 Conference theme is "One in the Spirit" (John 17). Featured speaker is Michael Cumbie, a Catholic convert, Lay Evangelist and humorist. ZION, popular worship and praise ministry from St. John Paul II Parish will lead music.

Michael Cumbie was raised in Alabama in the Southern Baptist faith. He later became an Assembly of God preacher. Confused at the many differences among Christian denominations, he began a search for the Truth. For a time he pastored in the Charismatic Episcopal church exploring the liturgy and worship of the early Church. After discovering the early Church Fathers, he was shocked to discover God was calling him into the Catholic Church.

He is a member of the "Coming Home Network" a fellowship group of former pastors and other converts. He is scheduled to give his personal testimony Friday night and will speak Saturday morning and afternoon as well. The Conference opens at 7 PM Friday, October 18, continuing from 9 AM Saturday and closes with Mass at 6 PM celebrated by Father James Hall, followed by Healing Service.

Noran Blaine, Conference Chair, says "This Conference is for everyone. People of all ages will enjoy Michael's stories and humor. He shares his deep faith through the eyes of someone whose journey led him to the Charismatic Renewal and eventually the Catholic Church. We especially urge youth and young adults to come enjoy "ZION" music ministry, prayer and worship, and Michael's great teaching."

Fee: \$20; Students and Military \$5 . Free for Children under 12, Clergy and Religious. No Fee for just Mass and



Featured Speaker Michael Crumbie a Catholic convert, lay evangelist and humorist. Zion Music Ministry from St. John Paul II will provide music for the conference.

Healing Service. Snacks, drinks and lunch will be available for sale. Tickets on sale at Madonna Shop, 5933 Gateway

West; Holy Spirit Store, 1895 George Dieter; Misión

Guadalupe, 2121 N. Piedras; Open Arms, 8210 N. Loop. Information and Tickets with CC: 915-595-0589 or on website: www.openarmscommunity.org By Mail:

Send Name(s), Address, Phone Number & check or MO to Conference 2019, 8210 N. Loop Drive, El Paso, TX 79907.

Conferencia carismática destaca "Uno en el espíritu"

La Conferencia Carismática Católica anual de El Paso está programada para el 18 y 19 de octubre en el Centro Las Alas, 501 East Paisano. El evento atrae a personas del oeste de Texas, el sur de Nuevo México y algunos de lugares tan lejanos como Arizona cada año. El tema de la Conferencia de 2019 es "Uno en el Espíritu" (Juan 17). El orador destacado es Michael Cumbie, un converso católico, evangelista laico y humorista. SION, el ministerio popular de adoración y alabanza de la parroquia de San Juan Paulo II dirigirá la música.

Michael Cumbie se crió en Alabama en la fe bautista del sur. Más tarde se convirtió en un predicador de la Asamblea de Dios. Confundido por las muchas diferencias entre las denominaciones cristianas, comenzó a buscar la Verdad. Pasó un tiempo pastoreando en la carismática iglesia episcopal explorando la liturgia y el culto de la Iglesia

primitiva. Después de descubrir a los primeros Padres de la Iglesia, se sorprendió al descubrir que Dios lo estaba llamando a la Iglesia Católica.

Es miembro de la "Coming Home Network", un grupo de ex pastores y otros conversos. Está programado para dar su testimonio personal el viernes por la noche y también hablará los sábados por la mañana y por la tarde. La Conferencia comienza a las 7 PM el viernes 18 de octubre, continuando desde las 9 AM el sábado y cierra con la Misa a las 6 PM celebrada por el Padre James Hall, seguido por el Servicio de Sanación.

Noran Blaine, presidenta de la conferencia, dice: "Esta conferencia es para todos. Personas de todas las edades disfrutarán las historias y el humor de Michael. Comparte su profunda fe a través de los ojos de alguien cuyo viaje lo llevó a la Renovación Carismática y, finalmente, a la Iglesia Católica. Instamos

especialmente a los jóvenes y adultos jóvenes a que disfruten del ministerio de música "SION", la oración y la adoración, y la gran enseñanza de Michael".

Tarifa: \$ 20; Estudiantes y militares \$ 5. Gratis para niños menores de 12 años, clérigos y religiosos. Sin cargo solo por servicio de misa y curación. Bocadillos, bebidas y almuerzos estarán disponibles para la venta. Entradas a la venta en Madonna Shop, 5933 Gateway

Oeste; Tienda del Espíritu Santo, 1895 George Dieter; Misión Guadalupe, 2121 N. Piedras; Brazos abiertos, 8210 N. Loop. Información y entradas con CC: 915-595-0589 o en el sitio web: www.openarmscommunity.org Por correo:

Enviar nombre (s), dirección, número de teléfono y cheque o MO a Conference 2019, 8210 N. Loop Drive, El Paso, TX 79907.

One in the Spirit! Jn.17

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From Farmworkers to Faith: Climate Change and the Church

By Fr. Robert Mosher

Special to the Rio Grande Catholic

When Rachel Carson woke up the world with her book *The Silent Spring*, which detailed the dangers of pesticide residues in farmworkers in 1962, the Second Vatican Council was just getting under way, and the Council Fathers were also looking at our natural home in a new and dynamic way, linking its use to a just distribution of the world's wealth, which would overcome poverty. "God destined the earth and all it contains for the use of every individual and all peoples" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 69).

Pope St. John Paul II noted that these words had "direct consequences for the problem at hand. It is manifestly unjust that a privileged few should continue to accumulate excess goods, squandering available resources, while masses of people are living in conditions of misery at the very lowest level of subsistence.

"Today," he continued, "the dramatic threat of ecological breakdown is teaching us the extent to which greed and selfishness - both individual and collective - are contrary to the order of creation, an order which is characterized by mutual interdependence." (No. 8, World Day of Peace 1991)

Pope Francis continued to emphasize the relationship between human beings and their natural environment in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, published in 2015, teaching that both the planet and the poor suffer from the same attitude in society. Mother Earth, he said, "now cries out to us, because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with

which God has endowed her."

Currently, we are suffering from the results of this mistreatment. Scientists attribute the dramatic climb of the average temperature of the earth's atmosphere to greenhouse gases emitted by human activity—for a few examples, by automobiles, coal-fueled electricity plants, and methane from animals that are raised for a meat-based diet. These gases trap the heat from the sun that would normally pass through the atmosphere into space after being reflected from the surface of the planet we live in.

"America's fastest-warming cities all lie in the Southwest — a hotspot for temperature increases," Climate Central, an independent organization of scientists and journalists with links to Princeton University, stated this year. "Las Vegas, El Paso, Tucson, and Phoenix have warmed more than any other cities in the country. Each has gotten at least 4.3°F hotter since the first Earth Day," celebrated on April 22nd, 1970.

A number of parishes in the diocese of El Paso have established ecological ministries and installed solar panels, together with LED lights and community gardens, on their properties, especially after Pope Francis' encyclical came out. However, the Columban Mission Center staff and partners in the heart of city has decided to offer a new service for parish groups dedicated to enlightening and serving their communities on the need for reconciliation with the Earth: ongoing education.

This kind of support will offer not only informational courses to parish leaders in Care of Creation Ministry, but will also provide



training for long-range goals, and for networking with other parishes' Care of Creation groups. It will also introduce professionals in the field of ecology and

sustainability to the parish leaders who attend the courses, as well as provide opportunities for diocesan offices and leaders, including our bishop, to speak to the parish leaders.

This November the first course begins, offered on the Tuesday and Thursday evenings

for the first three weeks of the month, 7 to 9 p.m., at the Columban Mission Center, 816 Magoffin Ave., El Paso, TX 79901. Registration is online through the e-mail cmc@columban.org, or by calling 915-351-1153.

God has much to teach us in the beauty of the desert and the voices of migrating people fleeing the deadly effects of climate change in their home countries. The need for a Care of Creation Ministry in every

parish, school and organization was never greater, and the opportunity to learn from the birds of the air and the flowers of the field never more important. Our diocesan family will respond with generosity and trust to the call to return to a more respectful relationship with our natural home, and justice for the poor, both victims of a throw-away mentality in our society.

Desde el Campo hasta la Fe: el Cambio Climatico y la Iglesia

Por Pdr. Robert Mosher

Special a el Rio Grande Catholic

When Rachel Carson woke up the world with her book *The Silent Spring*, which detailed the dangers of pesticide residues in farmworkers in 1962, the Second Vatican Council was just getting under way, and the Council Fathers were also looking at our natural home in a new and dynamic way, linking its use to a just distribution of the world's wealth, which would overcome poverty. "God destined the earth and all it contains for the use of every individual and all peoples" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 69).

La científica Rachel Carson escribió de los efectos tóxicos de los pesticidas en los trabajadores agrícolas en el mismo año en que la Iglesia católica comenzó a ponerse al día con el Concilio Vaticano II. Ambos eventos dieron remezones al mundo durante las décadas posteriores, dando inicio al movimiento ecológico y a la renovación de la Iglesia, respectivamente. Los obispos del Concilio, incluso, criticaron

el mas uso de nuestro hogar natural creado por Dios Padre por parte de los seres humanos, tema que los ecologistas actuales, sin ninguna fe en muchos casos, pero igual ocupando de la capacidad racional y ética del ser humano, que también son dones del Creador, repitieron con datos y abundantes resultados de rigorosas investigaciones.

El Papa San Juan Pablo II profundizó el tema al escribir de la injusticia patente "que unos pocos privilegiados sigan acumulando bienes superfluos, despilfarrando los recursos disponibles, cuando una gran multitud de personas vive en condiciones de miseria, en el mas bajo nivel de supervivencia.

"Y es la misma dimensión dramática del desequilibrio ecológico," añadió el pontífice, "la que nos enseña ahora como la avidez y el egoísmo, individual y colectivo, son contrarios al orden de la creación, que implica también la mutua interdependencia." (Mensaje para la jornada mundial de la paz 1990)

Papa Francisco hizo una clara llamada a un nuevo estilo de

vida y al diálogo para determinar futuras acciones concertadas en su carta encíclica *Laudato Si'* (2015), para así atender a la Madre Tierra, que "clama por el dano que le provocamos a causa del uso irresponsable y del abuso de los bienes que Dios ha puesto en ella."

Los habitantes de estas tierras áridas de la frontera entre los EE.UU. y México conocemos bien el cambio climático, consecuencia de las actividades daninas de los seres humanos al ocupar el carbono para las plantas eléctricas y el petróleo para el transporte de personas y bienes. Ambos factores de la vida moderna producen gases invernaderos, que por su parte atrapan el calor del sol que normalmente se disipa en el espacio, aumentando la temperatura promedio de la atmósfera de la Tierra. Las ciudades del suroeste de los EE.UU., incluyendo El Paso, según científicos, han visto una alza de temperatura inédita, "por lo menos 4,3 grados Fahrenheit [] desde 1970, cuando se celebró la primera jornada mundial de la Tierra."

Algunas parroquias de la diócesis de El Paso establecieron ministerios ecológicos, instalaron paneles solares, e iniciaron jardines comunitarios en sus terrenos, pero en muchos casos las iniciales acciones entusiastas no siguieron desarrollándose y desaparecieron este tipo de organizaciones.

Ahora, el Centro de la Misión Columbiana (establecido por los Misioneros de San Columbano) ofrece un curso de capacitación para los encargados del Ministerio del Cuidado de la Creación, que permitirá a los participantes considerar los pasos hacia una profundización de este ministerio. Los presentadores del curso serán de los ámbitos académicos y eclesiásticos, aportando desde los mundos

científicos y religiosos, enfocando todo hacia la finalidad de apoyar de manera continua a dichas organizaciones de este ministerio. Además, una mayor Red de Apoyo se establecerá para asesorar futuras acciones y planes de largo plazo de los grupos y ministerios, y así asegurar una existencia

duradera en las parroquias.

El curso comenzará el 5 de noviembre del año en curso y correrá por seis sesiones, cada martes y jueves por tres semanas, y tomará lugar en el mismo Centro de la Misión Columbiana en pleno centro de El Paso. Una Misa final se celebrará el sábado 23 de noviembre, Fiesta de San Columbano, cuando los certificados se entregaran a los participantes.

La apremiante necesidad de este tipo de ministerio, el Cuidado de la Creación, en cada parroquia, escuela y organización de la Iglesia nos presenta con una gran oportunidad de aprender de los pájaros del cielo y de los lirios del campo, y así vivir en la manera de Jesucristo, en armonía con nuestro hogar natural y con los más vulnerables de la sociedad, quienes sufren los efectos de la contaminación con más intensidad que otros sectores de la población. En este sentido, como también ha dicho Papa Francisco, tanto los pobres como el planeta sufren de la misma actitud del deseo de nuestra sociedad.

Encounter: El Paso Catholic Schools' Path Towards Transformation

By Ana Silva
Principal, St. Pius X School

In 2015, the leaders from 193 countries from around the world came together to collectively create a global movement called the United Nations Development Program to formulate and address 17 global goals to rid the world of poverty and hunger and lessen the effects of climate change peacefully by the year 2030.

Our El Paso Catholic Schools have embarked on a path to transformation utilizing a new education model where our school communities will put their Faith into Action. The goal is to equip our Catholic School students with skills to become responsible leaders as well as engaged citizens of our world. Through this model, they will focus on their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and virtues to explore Catholic Identity, 21st Century Skills, Lifelong Learning, purposeful innovation, bicultural identity, and global citizenship based on our fundamental beliefs, subsequently, guided by their teachers



through Cooperative Learning, Differentiated Learning and Service Learning.

This school year, all Diocesan teachers are attending Professional Development

sessions to enhance learning experiences for their students. Their lessons will integrate the curriculum based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) with a specific global goal to promote relevant teaching, critical thinking, and mutual respect while providing students with the tools, values and attitudes to create and serve a better

society. This interdisciplinary approach will spur our students look at issues creatively and cooperatively with each other using their critical thinking and digital literacy skills.

Encuentro: El camino de las escuelas católicas de El Paso hacia la transformación

By Ana Silva
Principal, St. Pius X School

En 2015, los líderes de 193 países de todo el mundo se unieron para crear colectivamente un movimiento global llamado Programa de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas para formular y abordar 17 objetivos globales para librar al mundo de la pobreza y el hambre y disminuir los efectos del cambio climático de

manera pacífica mediante El año 2030.

Nuestras escuelas católicas de El Paso se han embarcado en un camino hacia la transformación utilizando un nuevo modelo educativo donde nuestras comunidades escolares pondrán su fe en acción. El objetivo es equipar a nuestros estudiantes de la Escuela Católica con habilidades para convertirse en líderes responsables y ciudadanos com-

prometidos de nuestro mundo. A través de este modelo, se centrarán en sus conocimientos, habilidades, actitudes y virtudes para explorar la identidad católica, las habilidades del siglo XXI, el aprendizaje permanente, la innovación decidida, la identidad bicultural y la ciudadanía global basadas en nuestras creencias fundamentales, posteriormente, guiados por sus maestros, a través del aprendizaje cooperativo, el aprendizaje diferenciado y el aprendizaje de servicio.

Este año escolar, todos los maestros diocesanos asisten a sesiones de desarrollo profesional para mejorar las experiencias de aprendizaje de sus alumnos. Sus lecciones integrarán el plan de estudios basado en el Conocimiento y las Habilidades Esenciales de Texas (TEKS) con un objetivo global específico para pro-

mover la enseñanza relevante, el pensamiento crítico y el respeto mutuo al tiempo que proporcionan a los estudiantes las herramientas, valores y actitudes para crear y servir a una sociedad mejor. Este enfoque interdisciplinario estimulará a nuestros estudiantes a ver los problemas de manera creativa y cooperativa entre sí utilizando sus habilidades de pensamiento crítico y alfabetización digital.

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Saturday, NOVEMBER 2nd, 2019 at 9am
Sábado, 2 de NOVIEMBRE de 2019 a las 9am

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 near the Santa Fe bridge – cerca del puente Santa Fe

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OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS

The call of the Gospel to end RACISM today

Option for the Poor Awards Dinner
 Diocesan Peace and Justice Ministry – Diocese of El Paso

NOVEMBER 8 2019 6pm

Saint John Paul II Parish Hall 518 Gallagher, 79915
 Individual Ticket \$35 ~ Table for 8 \$250

Sr. Helen Santamaria, SL - Keynote



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HBI to Host Teach-In 2019: Jornada por la Justicia

By Hannah Hollanbyrd
Hope Border Institute

Hope Border Institute and the Latinx Catholic Leadership Coalition will host a weekend of education and action around justice and human rights from October 11-13. The event, entitled Teach-In 2019: Jornada por la Justicia, is driven by the need for a border-centric and Catholic vision of how we can create a better and more just world.

The recent targeting and massacre of 22 people in our border community made visible the racism and hatred that still pulse through American life. This is manifested in deadly white supremacy, in the dehumanization of migrant families at the border and in a dangerous politics of exclusion and fear. This moment in time requires bold action from Latinx leaders from across the country and across sectors to enter the public square on behalf of justice, demand an end to racism and the politics of xenophobia and stand in solidarity with migrants and targeted communities everywhere.

The teach-in is a three-day convening of Catholic Latinx leaders and allies dedicated to deepening our knowledge of social justice, building coalitions and taking direct action. The afternoon of Friday, October 11 will begin with a



blessing of the attendees, many of whom will be traveling from Chicago, New York and California to join El Pasoans in our call for justice. Monsignor Arturo Bañuelas of St. Mark's parish will deliver the first key-

note address on undermining white supremacy through solidarity, followed by a response from Dr. Dulcinea Lara of NMSU. Friday will culminate in a dinner and celebration of Latinx heritage and faith.

Saturday and Sunday will feature panels and workshops on immigration, anti-racism, community organizing, the 2020 election and much more. Panelists include Montserrat Garibay of the Texas

HBI presentará Teach-In 2019: Jornada por la Justicia

Por Hannah Hollanbyrd
Hope Border Institute

Hope Border Institute y Latinx Catholic Leadership Coalition organizarán un fin de semana de educación y acción en torno a la justicia y los derechos humanos del 11 al 13 de octubre. El evento, titulado Teach-In 2019: Jornada por la Justicia, está impulsado por la necesidad de una visión católica y centrada en la frontera de cómo podemos crear un mundo mejor y más justo.

El reciente ataque y la matanza de 22 latinos en nuestra comunidad fronteriza hicieron visible el racismo y el odio que aún late en la vida estadounidense. Esto se manifiesta en la supremacía blanca y mortal, en la deshumanización de las familias migrantes en la frontera y en una política peligrosa de exclusión y miedo. Este momento requiere una acción audaz por parte de los líderes latinx de todo el país y de todos los sectores para ingresar a la plaza pública en nombre de la justicia, exigir el fin del racismo y la política de xenofobia y solidarizarse con los migrantes y las comunidades objetivo en todas partes.

La enseñanza es una reunión

de tres días de líderes y aliados católicos latinos dedicados a profundizar nuestro conocimiento de la justicia social, formar coaliciones y tomar medidas directas. La tarde del viernes 11 de octubre comenzará con una bendición de los asistentes, muchos de los cuales viajarán desde Chicago, Nueva York y California para unirse a los habitantes de El Paso en nuestro llamado a la justicia. Monseñor Arturo Bañuelas de la parroquia de San Marcos pronunciará el primer discurso de apertura sobre socavar la supremacía blanca a través de la solidaridad, seguido de una respuesta del Dr. Dulcinea Lara de NMSU. El viernes culminará con una cena y celebración de la herencia y la fe latinx.

El sábado y el domingo se presentarán paneles y talleres sobre inmigración, antirracismo, organización comunitaria, elecciones 2020 y mucho más. Los panelistas incluyen a Montserrat Garibay del AFL-CIO de Texas, Dylan Corbett del Hope Border Institute, el Dr. Luis Fraga del Instituto de Estudios Latinos de Notre Dame y otros líderes laborales, activistas y teólogos.

El sábado por la noche, el grupo se reunirá para una

poderosa acción de protesta que se opondrá a políticas inhumanas y mortales en la frontera que militarizan nuestras comunidades y dejan a nuestros hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes temerosos por sus vidas y su futuro. El fin de semana concluirá con un anuncio especial del obispo Mark J. Seitz de El Paso y una misa de clausura.

La enseñanza enfrentará el racismo y la exclusión con amor y una visión para un futuro en el que todos vivimos con seguridad y dignidad, independientemente del color de la piel o el origen nacional. Exigiremos el fin de políticas como Permanecer en México y la prohibición del asilo, así como la retórica y política racistas que se han vuelto demasiado comunes en nuestro discurso nacional. En términos más generales, pediremos un trato igualitario y digno para todos los latinos y personas de color, ya sean ciudadanos o no, documentados o no.

Inscripción para enseñar en 2019: Jornada por la Justicia cuesta \$ 15 e incluye asistencia, comidas y materiales. Regístrate y regístrate para ser voluntario en www.hopeborder.org. Esperamos que pueda unirse a nosotros.

AFL-CIO, Dylan Corbett of Hope Border Institute, Dr. Luis Fraga of the Institute for Latino Studies at Notre Dame, and other labor leaders, activists and theologians.

On Saturday evening, the group will gather for a powerful protest action that will oppose inhumane and deadly policies at the border that militarize our communities and leave our immigrant brothers and sisters fearing for their lives and futures. The weekend will conclude with a special announcement by Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso and a closing mass.

The teach-in will meet racism and exclusion with love and a vision for a future where we all live in safety and dignity regardless of skin color or national origin. We will demand an end to policies like Remain in Mexico and the asylum ban, as well as the racist rhetoric and policy that has become all too common in our national discourse. More broadly, we will call for the equal and dignified treatment of all Latinos and people of color, whether citizen or non-citizen, documented or not.

Registration for Teach In 2019: Jornada por la Justicia is \$15 and includes attendance, meals, and materials. Register and sign up to volunteer at www.hopeborder.org. We hope you can join us.

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THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EL PASO

The 2020 Census: Why It Matters

Special to the Rio Grande Catholic

In 2020, our nation will conduct the once-a-decade Census with the goal to count every person living in the United States once, only once and in the right place. Everyone matters and responding to the Census helps communities get their fair share of federal funding. Census data guides how more than \$675 billion in funding gets distributed to states and communities each year and helps communities create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals. The Census also helps determine how many seats a state receives in Congress and state and local governments use the data to redraw boundaries for congressional districts, state legislative

districts and school districts, adapting to population shifts.

The 2020 Census is easy, safe and important. Responding is easier than ever since for the first time, people will be able to respond to the Census online. It asks just a few questions and takes a few minutes to respond. Your responses are safe, secure, confidential and protected by law. If you respond online, your answers are encrypted to protect your privacy and are safe from hacking and other cyber threats. If you don't have Internet access, people can respond by phone or by mail.

Conducting the Census is a massive undertaking and requires years of planning with the support of thousands of people. As the 2020 Census approaches, our success will rely on everyone's participation



in every community. The opportunities will come through temporary jobs nationwide for multiple positions. Watch for these jobs as they become available on 2020census.gov/jobs or USAjobs.gov.

Census outreach also consists of building relationships in the community where Area

Census Offices are located. For the past several months, the Census has garnered support from local communities, governments and school districts [NewsFeature_web_050219](#) throughout the El Paso community. The city has embraced all Census efforts and through the El Paso partnership team, the Census has gained support

from City of El Paso Mayor Dee Margo, local Congress representatives, the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and organizations that focus on border initiatives.

To obtain more information about the upcoming 2020 Census and how you can become involved, please visit www.2020census.gov.

El Censo del 2020: Por Qué Importa

Special al el Rio Grande Catholic

En 2020, nuestra nación llevará a cabo el Censo de una vez por década con el objetivo de contar a todas las personas que viven en los Estados Unidos una vez, solo una vez y en el lugar correcto. Todos importan y responder al Censo ayuda a las comunidades a obtener su parte justa de los fondos federales. Los datos del censo guían cómo se distribuyen más de \$ 675 mil millones en fondos a los estados y las comunidades cada año y ayuda

a las comunidades a crear empleos, proporcionar viviendas, prepararse para emergencias y construir escuelas, carreteras y hospitales. El Censo también ayuda a determinar cuántos escaños recibe un estado en el Congreso y los gobiernos estatales y locales usan los datos para volver a trazar los límites de los distritos del Congreso, distritos legislativos estatales y distritos escolares, adaptándose a los cambios de población.

El Censo 2020 es fácil, seguro e importante. Responder es más fácil que nunca, ya que por primera vez, las personas

podrán responder al Censo en línea. Solo hace algunas preguntas y tarda unos minutos en responder. Sus respuestas son seguras, confidenciales y protegidas por ley. Si responde en línea, sus respuestas están encriptadas para proteger su privacidad y están a salvo de piratería informática y otras amenazas cibernéticas. Si no tiene acceso a Internet, las personas pueden responder por teléfono o por correo.

La realización del censo es una tarea masiva y requiere años de planificación con el apoyo de miles de personas.

A medida que se acerca el Censo 2020, nuestro éxito dependerá de la participación de todos en cada comunidad. Las oportunidades vendrán a través de trabajos temporales en todo el país para múltiples puestos. Esté atento a estos trabajos a medida que estén disponibles en 2020census.gov/jobs o USAjobs.gov.

El alcance del censo también consiste en construir relaciones en la comunidad donde se encuentran las oficinas del censo del área. Durante los últimos meses, el Censo ha obtenido el apoyo de comunidades locales,

gobiernos y distritos escolares [NewsFeature_web_050219](#) en toda la comunidad de El Paso. La ciudad ha acogido todos los esfuerzos del Censo y, a través del equipo de asociación de El Paso, el Censo ha obtenido el apoyo del alcalde de la ciudad de El Paso, Dee Margo, representantes del Congreso local, la Universidad de Texas en El Paso (UTEP) y organizaciones que se centran en iniciativas fronterizas.

Para obtener más información sobre el próximo Censo 2020 y cómo puede participar, visite www.2020census.gov.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery is the only cemetery in El Paso established specifically to serve the Catholic community. In your greatest need, Our Lady of 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.

Facilities and Services

Our Lady of Mount Carmel offers a full range of options

- Intimate chapel for on-site services
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- Internment of cremated remains in the columbarium or the chapel
- Peaceful, well-kept grounds maintained with environmentally responsible reclaimed water

Aside from immediate need services available, staff members can provide assistance with arrangements for future needs

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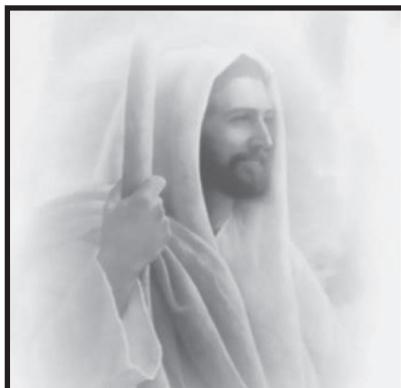
Wednesday - Friday 9 am -12 pm

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



SIDEWALK JESUS

Ripples create tidal waves of love

**Janet M. Crowe**

Ancient mariners traversed the seas to discover new opportunities using the guidance of stars in the heavens. In America, innocent men and women escaping slavery trusted the North Star to guide them to safety and freedom from harm. Today, many women and men in El Paso trust a Guiding Star to help them find the support and assistance they need to discover a life filled with opportunities and the blessings of parenthood. This Guiding Star values the worth of each and every person who seeks its aid. This Guiding Star not only rescues the innocent from death but also empowers women to achieve their full potential without regret, honors men by helping them become the protector they were meant to be, and celebrates families by strengthening the family as the foundation of our society.

This Guiding Star uses the example of Mother Teresa who once said, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." Nydia Correa, the Executive Director of El Paso's Guiding Star, emphasizes the importance of following Mother Teresa's example, saying that even "twenty-two years after her death, Mother Teresa's ripples are still impacting our world as tidal waves of love,

because of her abundant mercy for those in need."

That tidal wave of love washed over those attending the Guiding Star El Paso Light of Hope Gala last month when Ashley Bratcher, the actress who portrayed pro-life activist Abby Johnson in the movie *Unplanned*, joined Nydia Correa and all of Guiding Star to share some of the experiences and achievements being produced by ripples which are cast out with love.

As a middle school teacher, Ashley enjoyed influencing the lives of children, but she wanted to pursue her dream to become an actress. However, success was slow in coming until she made the decision to trust in God's will. "I gave my career to God," Ashley told the packed house at the Light of Hope Gala. "God, if You want to take it away, okay; and if You want to bless it, that is fine, too." That's when she started working non-stop, starring in what has been called uplifting and redemptive movies, such as *Badge of Faith* and the award-winning *Princess Cut*. But Ashley says that God also gave her plenty of lessons in humility as well.

When she auditioned for a part in the movie *Unplanned*, she was warned by several people, including the directors themselves, that this movie could end her career and cause her to be banned from future movies. Hollywood is not typically interested in taking on pro-life or pro-family issues and antagonizing their wealthy pro-abortion supporters, except for those few producers and directors who also recognize that God should be the one in charge.

Having already relinquished

the success of her career to God, Ashley said she told the directors that she was fine with that because God was in control, but she said she was also praying hard to remind God that He could "open doors that no man can close." And He did.

Although the critics slammed the film and it will never bring in the revenue produced by the superhero films against which it competed in the theaters, *Unplanned* is influencing lives in a way that not even a supervillain can stop.

In *Unplanned*, Ashley played the title role in the true story of Abby Johnson, the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic director in the nation, who only wanted to help women and who actually believed the lies and deception of the largest abortion provider in the world when they claimed to want to make abortion a last resort. That is, until she witnessed an ultrasound-guided abortion and recognized the humanity of the preborn baby who could feel the pain and agony of the abortion violently ending his life.

In that one eye-opening moment, Abby Johnson knew that her life had been a lie and that she had to do something about it. On that day, she began freeing herself from the slavery of deceit and has become the most active and outspoken pro-life advocate in the nation. In researching Johnson's life story, Ashley realized that this was the testimony of redemption and forgiveness and Ashley wanted to be a part of such a powerful witness of God's mercy.

Ashley's only hesitation to involving herself in the story of a powerful pro-life advocate was

telling her mother because she knew that her mother had once undergone an abortion. However, when she did tell her mother about the new movie role she had accepted, she was totally unprepared for her mother's revelation. Her mother said that Ashley needed to know that not only had she had an abortion years before Ashley was born, but that she had gone to the abortion clinic again for a second time. However, on that day, as she lay on the table waiting for the abortionist, she suddenly changed her mind, got up off the table and walked out of the clinic. "That baby was you, Ashley," her mother told her.

Her mother's statement came as a shock that Ashley described as a true near-death experience. She realized that she had almost never had a chance to be born, to walk upon the earth, to fulfill the dreams and goals she had for her life, to look at the beautiful face of her own child – born from her own unplanned pregnancy – and to feel the joy with which her child filled her heart. With that discovery, she was convinced that God has a plan for every life that is conceived and that contributing her talents to this movie was part of what she was meant to do.

And she has not once regretted her decision. "I know for a fact that babies are being saved and born because of this movie and that is so much more important than whether my career is going well," Ashley declares when people remind her that Hollywood is not pro-life.

And while her ambition had always been to play a superhero in a Marvel film, she feels she has exceeded that goal by playing

the role of a real-life superhero who saves women and babies in the real world of today, not in an imaginary and fictional tale created by special effects and smoke and mirrors.

Ashley went on to proclaim, "The people who serve here (at Guiding Star El Paso) are the real heroes who deserve the recognition." And not only the counselors and workers at Guiding Star, she emphasized, but especially the people who support the actions of Guiding Star by contributing their time, talents and support to making the sanctity of life a reality in El Paso and the world.

How many of us can become or even portray superheroes in today's world? How many of us can even imagine that what we are doing today will still impact the world years after we are gone? Each and every one of us.

As Mother Teresa said, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." Today we can create a tidal wave of love that will benefit people today and for generations to come IF we take the time to cast our support upon the waters to create the ripples that can change the world. Will we?

Guiding Star needs our support to help more women, men and children who God has placed upon this earth with a plan for their lives. Will we help them achieve His plan for them? God, the babies and Guiding Star are waiting for each of us to cast our love upon the waters. Call 915-544-9600 or email info@GuidingStarElPaso.org or visit the website GuidingStarElPaso.org for a life-affirming way that you can be a real-life superhero.

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Palliative Sedation While Approaching Death

**Fr. Tad Pacholczyk**

Because suffering almost always imposes itself on us during life, and especially at the end of life, it can be helpful to reflect on the need to accept some personal suffering as we die, even as we recognize the importance of palliative steps and other comfort measures.

In the last week of life, more than 90 percent of patients require medical management of symptoms such as pain, nausea, delirium, spastic contractions of muscles, vomiting, hallucinations, or generalized agitation.

Many of these symptoms can be addressed with medication, and serious pain can often be managed with powerful opioids like morphine or fentanyl. These remarkable drugs, however, call for discernment in their use because at higher dosages, they can limit mental clarity and induce an extended semi-dreamland state as

death approaches.

The U.S. Catholic bishops offer an important observation about participating in our own dying process in their Ethical and Religious Directives. "Since a person has the right to prepare for his or her death while fully conscious," it says, "he or she should not be deprived of consciousness without a compelling reason."

In some cases, the harsh symptoms associated with dying may prove refractory to treatments, prompting physicians to consider, during a patient's final stretch of days, the possibility of a globalized form of sedation known as "palliative sedation." This approach, which relies on the monitored use of sedatives, barbiturates, neuroleptics, benzodiazepines or other anesthetic medications, entirely deprives the patient of consciousness as he or she enters into a deep comatose state until death. One concern is that the reception of the sacraments, whether confession, the anointing of the sick or the Eucharist/Viaticum becomes problematic for an unconscious person.

This purposeful and complete shutting down of consciousness also raises broader ethical and spiritual concerns about categorically

precluding participation in one's death, as well as the last days of life.

While for some dying patients, severe pain can almost entirely preclude their ability to think, once the intensity of their pain has been moderated, the possibility of reflection returns, as the mind no longer focuses on mere survival. Medications can thus be helpful to dying patients by keeping the harmful effects of pain within narrower limits. The decision, however, definitively to shut down, through palliative sedation, that very faculty by which we exercise the conscious "parenting of our actions" surely requires the gravest of motives.

St. John Paul II once remarked that the meaning of suffering has been revealed to man in the cross of Jesus Christ. The Church has indeed ascribed a certain primacy to the way he endured and sanctified the sorrowful and painful events surrounding his crucifixion, even before his preaching and teaching, or his healing and forgiving. Through those final sufferings, Jesus brought about the redemption of humanity and the entirety of creation.

Paradoxically, his redemp-

tive activity upon the gibbet of the Cross was pre-eminently an inward, internalized movement of his will. Since he could not so much as budge a limb, his chief action and motion upon the Cross was the surrender of his innermost being, embracing and assenting fully to God the Father's designs. His example reminds us how the movement from external activity to the acceptance of God's will, from outward action in the world to inward activity of the soul, is one of the most important movements during our life's journey.

When Christians speak of "the value of redemptive suffering," they are hinting at how, even in the midst of great personal suffering, human activity can be reoriented from that corporal, outward-looking glance to an inward, spiritually-directed transcendence.

The inward movement of our being in our final days and hours can involve a kind of transformation or conversion, sometimes quite dramatic, as in the case of the good thief. It can involve a contemplative internalization of the mysteries of human existence, a stripping away of everything, and a period of "rending naked" the soul.

That's why it is so important for

us not to be entirely deprived of our consciousness except for the most extreme reasons. That's why it's so important for us to be prepared to learn how to endure some pain so that we can more fully cooperate with the redemptive meaning of suffering.

Our concluding time on earth may thus serve an important role in our own eschatological fulfillment. Our last days and hours can also powerfully affect the course of that fulfillment in others around us, as occurred in the lives of various bystanders on that historic day on Calvary. When we find ourselves nailed to our hospital bed, it can become an important personal moment for us to engage the possibility of a spiritual transformation opening before us, as we pass through the pains of childbirth to the joy of new life (Jn 16:21).

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.ncb-center.org

VIDA DEL ESPIRITU



Padre Wilson Cuevas

Se ha oido decir que el niño vive de sueños, el anciano de recuerdos y el joven de realidades. Diríamos que una fogosa, agitada y desatrapada vida es más propia de la juventud, porque en esa etapa el ser humano goza de mayor plenitud físicamente hablando; pero todos vivimos las varias etapas de nuestra existencia con fuertes razones para realizarnos y ser felices.

Lo cierto es que en cualquier etapa de la vida lo único que nos ha de interesar es vivir cada día, cada momento con la plena conciencia de invertir tu tiempo sabiamente, haciendo lo mejor posible para lograr tus metas y propósitos de vida. Tomate tu tiempo para clarificar cuáles son tus prioridades, y revisa como estas empleando ese tiempo para que ninguna de ellas quede fuera de tu saldo diario disponible, pues esos 86,400 segundos de cada día si no los inviertes bien los habrás perdido para siempre y se esfumarán de tu cuenta bancaria de por vida.

Hace algunos años leí una metáfora sobre el valor del tiempo y que quiero compartir contigo: "Dios cada mañana al despertar, nos da a todos por igual la cantidad de 86,400 segundos de tiempo para que los invirtamos cada día en las cosas que nos

proponemos realizar. Lo que no invertimos, se pierde. El tiempo no se transfiere al nuevo día. Al otro día, Dios vuelve a darte la misma cantidad de tiempo, 86,400 segundos, que puedes gastar solo ese día. Y cada noche lo que no hayas invertido en algo provechoso, se da como perdida y se borra de tu cuenta. No es posible acumular ese saldo para el día siguiente. Cada mañana, tu cuenta es reiniciada y todas las noches pierdes el saldo no aprovechado y no puedes dar marcha atrás. El reloj está corriendo, solo tienes una vida y en ella, lo más importante, ademas del tiempo que tienes, es lo que haces con él. A veces, conocer y apreciar el valor del tiempo y aprender a usarlo bien puede significar la diferencia entre VIVIR UNA EXISTENCIA PLENA o VIVIR EN PLENA FRUSTACION. Es tu decisión.

La gente en general tiene poca conciencia de lo que pierde todos los días, cuando pierde el tiempo y es importante saber administrar bien el tiempo que tenemos. Claro que también es importante VER COMO LE QUITAN EL TIEMPO A LA GENTE EN conversaciones largas y sin propósito, en distracciones y visitas prolongadas y frecuentes.

Nadie debería quitarle tiempo de su vida a otros; pues aunque no nos demos cuenta, es el recurso mas escaso que tenemos en la vida.

Nada puede cambiar el pasado y nadie puede dar otro giro a un incierto futuro, lo realmente

cierto es "hoy" "ahora". Pensar y lamentarse por lo que pudiste haber hecho y no lo hiciste, o pensar demasiado en lo que tal vez nunca pasara y descuidar el presente es sencillamente perder el tiempo. Vivir el presente con la experiencia del pasado y con la ilusión del futuro, he aquí la verdadera sabiduría ! un autor desconocido sugiere vivir el tiempo de manera inteligente, así:

Date tiempo para pensar, es la fuente del poder.

Date tiempo para jugar, es el secreto de la eterna juventud.

Date tiempo para leer, es la fuente de la sabiduría.

Date tiempo para orar, es el poder más grande en la tierra.

Date tiempo para amar y ser amado, es un privilegio que Dios nos dio.

Date tiempo para ser amable, el camino hacia la felicidad.

Date tiempo para reír, es la música del alma.

Aprovecha el tiempo para dar, el día es demasiado corto para ser egoísta.

Date tiempo para trabajar, es el precio del éxito.

Date tiempo para ser caritativo, es la llave del cielo. (Cfr. Eclesiastés 3, 1)

A Dios le encanta los nuevos comienzos. Dios nos prepara cada día un nuevo día; cada lunes, volvemos a empezar, un nuevo mes, un año nuevo y cumpleaños y cada uno representa una nueva bendición y un nuevo comienzo. Nunca nos arrepentiremos de aprovechar



el tiempo. De perderlo o malgastarlo sí. Casi siempre las fallas en la mañana tienen sus raíces en la pereza y las omisiones de hoy. La influencia y trascendencia de los pasos que damos no acaban al llegar la noche. Seguirán influyendo para bien o para mal, durante el resto de la vida y, visto con visión de fe, también por toda la eternidad. Es impresionante lo que está en juego cada minuto de cada día. Si afirmas que amas y sigues a Cristo y te sobra tiempo, andas por caminos de tibieza. La única avaricia noble en el hombre es la avaricia del tiempo. Perder el tiempo siempre es malo. Hacerlo perder a los demás, es peor. El "después" y el "mañana" han hecho y hacen, más estragos en las almas que los clásicos enemigos: el mundo, el demonio y la carne.

El que se mete en el camino del "después" suele acabar en el camino del "nunca". Si tienes problemas con tu hijo o con tu papá o esposa, "anda ahora y habla con él, o con ella, quizás después sea tarde". Muchos han querido decir o hacer algo por alguien pero pensaron que tendrían tiempo para hacerlo y lo postergaron para otro día y cuando llegaron ya había muerto esa madre o padre o familiar o amigo..."Si tienes que hacer algo por alguien anda ahora... no lo dejes para después... es un error muy frecuente y muy común". Servir a los demás es la mejor obra de una vida y de tu tiempo. Nuestra mayor oportunidad es ahora. Cada instante es importante. Cada día, cada momento nos presenta nuevas oportunidades. Usa el tiempo con sabiduría!

The Value of Time

It has been said that children live on dreams, the old man on memories, and the young man on realities. We would say that an ardent, exciting and unraveled life is more typical of youth, because at that stage the human being enjoys greater fullness physically speaking; but we all live the various stages of our existence with strong reasons to fulfill ourselves and be happy.

The truth is that at any stage of life the only thing that interests us is to live every day, every moment, with the full awareness of investing our time wisely, doing our best to achieve our goals and life purpose. Take your time to understand what your priorities are, and examine how you are using that time so that none of them are left out of your available daily balance, because those 86,400 seconds of each day, if you do not invest them well, will be lost and they will be gone forever. They will vanish from your account for life. I want to share with you a metaphor I read a few years ago about the value of time: "Every morning upon awakening, God gives us all equally the amount

of 86,400 seconds of time for us to invest during this day in the things we intend to do. What we do not invest is lost. Unused time does not transfer to the new day. The next day, God gives you the same amount of time again, 86,400 seconds, that you can spend only that day. And every night what you have not invested in something profitable, is deemed as lost time and it is deleted from your account. It is not possible to accumulate that balance for the next day. Every morning, your account is restarted and every night you lose the unused balance and you cannot restart the clock. The clock is always running in your life, and in it, the most important thing, in addition to the time you have is what you do with it. Sometimes knowing and appreciating the value of time, and learning to use it well, can mean the difference between a LIFE WITH FULL EXISTENCE or a LIFE FULL OF FRUSTRATION. It's your decision.

People in general have little awareness of what is lost every day when it comes to time, but it is important to know how to manage well the time we

do have. Of course it is also important to SEE HOW SOME PEOPLE EVEN LOSE OTHER PEOPLE'S TIME IN long and meaningless conversations, in long and frequent distractions and extended visits. No one is entitled to take time away from others, because even if we don't realize it, it's the least abundant resource we have in life.

Nothing can change the past and no one can devise another twist to an uncertain future, the truth is "today" "now". Thinking and lamenting about what you could have done and didn't do, or thinking too much about what might never happen in the future and neglecting the present is simply wasting time. Live the present with the experience of the past and with the illusion of the future, here is the true wisdom! An unknown author suggests using time like this:

Give yourself time to think, it is the source of power.

Give yourself time to play, it is the secret of eternal youth.

Give yourself time to read, it is the source of wisdom.

Give yourself time to pray, it is the greatest power on earth.

Give yourself time to

love and be loved, it is a privilege given by God Give yourself time to be kind, it is the road to happiness.

Give yourself time to laugh, it is the music of the soul.

Take time to give, the day is too short to be selfish.

Give yourself time to work, it is the price of success.

Give yourself time to be charitable, it is the key to heaven (Cfr. Ecclesiastes 3, 1)

God loves new beginnings. God prepares for us a new day every day; every

Monday, when we start again, a new month, a new year, and birthdays and each one represents a new blessing and a new beginning. We will never regret taking advantage of time. But to lose it or waste it, yes. Most failures every morning are rooted in laziness and actions unplanned and undone. The influence and transcendence of the steps we take do not end at night. They will continue to influence us, for better or worse, for the rest of our life, and seen with a vision of faith, also for all eternity. It is impressive what is at stake every minute of every

By Melissa Cervantes
Featured Columnists

Before I encountered St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body my heart was deeply longing for a spouse. I just wanted to love and be loved by someone, to be seen by another person and share intimately my love for Jesus. I truly thought that finding that person would cure the ache in my heart. I was having a hard time trusting and believing that God wanted to fulfill the deepest desires of my heart. I often prayed and asked, Lord, where is my future husband? Is there something wrong with me? Did he get lost? Did he fall off his white horse? Did the horse die and now he has to walk? I mean seriously, what is taking so long??? TOB was a great shift in my spiritual journey and changed how I view life and eternity.

He began to speak to me in a beautiful language that I had never heard before. It was as if my heart was awakened to the Gospel for the very first time. TOB aroused and affirmed in me holy desires about love. My eyes were opened to God's plan for the Marital Embrace and it unveiled the holiness of those desires. That was the



Melissa Cervantes is Co-Founder of Arise Young Adult Apostolate at St. Raphael Parish, *Photo Courtesy of Arise*

first time I ever looked at the embrace as a prayer, as an act of worship. My heart was groaning at the revelation and beauty of God's plan.

I Fell in Love, deeply and profoundly, with God

From that day forward, I have never looked at life or people in the same way. I will never look at Heaven

and the Eucharist in the same way. "Communion" took on a whole different meaning. Receiving Him in the Eucharist became a mystical experience. I began to enter into the mystery of "Communion" with Jesus and with others. Oh, how intimately he wants to be one with us. My prayer

El Deseo

Por Melissa Cervantes
Columnista Destacado

Antes de encontrarme con la Teología del cuerpo de San Juan Pablo II, mi corazón ansiaba profundamente un cónyuge. Solo quería amar y ser amado por alguien, ser visto por otra persona y compartir intimamente mi amor por Jesús. Realmente pensé que encontrar a esa persona curaría el dolor en mi corazón. Estaba teniendo dificultades para confiar y creer que Dios quería cumplir los deseos más profundos de mi corazón. A menudo oraba y preguntaba, Señor, ¿dónde está mi futuro esposo? ¿Hay algo mal conmigo? ¿Se perdió? ¿Se cayó de su caballo blanco? ¿Murió el caballo y ahora tiene que caminar? Quiero decir en serio, ¿qué está tomando tanto tiempo? TOB fue un gran cambio en mi viaje espiritual y cambió la forma en que veo la vida y la eternidad.

Él comenzó a hablarme en un hermoso idioma que nunca antes había escuchado. Era como si mi corazón hubiera despertado al Evangelio por primera vez. TOB despertó y afirmó en mí santos deseos sobre el amor. Mis ojos se abrieron al plan de Dios para el Abrazo Marital y reveló la santidad de esos deseos. Esa fue la primera vez que vi el abrazo

como una oración, como un acto de adoración. Mi corazón gimió ante la revelación y la belleza del plan de Dios.

Me enamoré, profunda y profundamente, de Dios

Desde ese día en adelante, nunca he visto la vida o las personas de la misma manera. Nunca miraré el Cielo y la Eucaristía de la misma manera. "Comunión" adquirió un significado completamente diferente. Recibirla en la Eucaristía se convirtió en una experiencia mística. Comencé a entrar en el misterio de la "Comunión" con Jesús y con los demás.

Oh, cuán intimamente quiere ser uno con nosotros. Mi vida de oración fue totalmente transformada. Comenzamos a hablarnos en un nuevo idioma. Podía escucharlo llamándome más cerca e invitándome a abrirmelo a Él y a Su plan, sea lo que sea. Podía escucharlo decir: Nadie puede amarte como yo, deja de buscar; quédate quieto, déjame satisfacerte conmigo mismo. Entrégale tus planes y deseos y estarás listo para recibir el REGALO de tu vocación. No tengas miedo de entregarte totalmente a mí. Confía en mi amor por ti, confía en que quiero y sé lo que es mejor para ti.

Es solo ahora que me estoy desacelerando, comenzando a cerrar los ojos, dejar de lado el miedo a lo desconocido y

dejar que lidere, confiando en que él sabe mejor que yo a dónde vamos. Finalmente me siento más en paz con mi estado de soltero en la vida. Estoy más abierto y listo para permitir que el amor de Dios guíe el camino. Todavía deseo casarme, pero mi satisfacción y paz vienen de estar unidas con Jesús en la Eucaristía. He dejado de tratar de aferrarme a mi futuro esposo y rezar a menudo por la apertura de Nuestra Señora, quien recibió el regalo y el plan de Dios para su vida, tan perfecta y tan humildemente. Todavía me duele el corazón, pero finalmente puedo ver el dolor y el anhelo de lo que es, un anhelo de Dios. Un anhelo que solo se cumplirá cuando estemos unidos con Él en el Cielo. Como dice San Juan Crisóstomo, "el anhelo en sí mismo es una oración de profunda intimidad e intensidad, el anhelo de Dios es un amor demasiado profundo para las palabras"

Si usted es un adulto joven a quien le gustaría aprender más sobre la Teología del Cuerpo y discutir temas como el amor, el sexo y las relaciones, ARISE desea invitarlo a nuestra Serie QUERIDA. Consulte nuestro horario en: www.straphaelpaso.com/arise

life was totally transformed. We began to speak to each other in a new language. I could hear him calling me closer and inviting me to open myself to Him and His plan, whatever that may be. I could hear him saying, No one can love you like I can, stop searching; be still, let me fulfill you with myself. Surrender your plans and desires to me and then you will be ready to receive the GIFT of your vocation. Do not be afraid to give yourself totally to me. Trust in my love for you, trust that I want and know what is best for you.

It is only now that I am slowing beginning to close my eyes, let go of the fear of the unknown and let him lead, trusting that he knows better than I do where we are going. I finally feel more at peace with my single state in life. I am more open and ready to allow God's love to lead the way. I still have a desire for marriage but

my satisfaction and peace come with being united with Jesus in the Eucharist. I have stopped trying to grasp at my future husband and pray often for the openness of Our Lady, who received the gift and God's plan for her life, so perfectly and so humbly. My heart still aches but I am finally able to see the ache and the longing for what it is, a longing for God. A longing that will only be fulfilled when we are united with Him in Heaven. As St. John Chrysostom says, "Longing in itself is a prayer of deep intimacy and intensity, longing for God is a love too deep for words"

If you are a young adult who would like to learn more about Theology of the Body and discuss topics such as love, sex and relationships, ARISE would like to invite you to our BELOVED Series. Please check out our schedule at: www.straphaelpaso.com/arise

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Rome & Medjugorje

Oct. 5 - 14, 2020 - \$3,998

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Dec. 7 - 13, 2020 - \$1,398 - Without Air

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Call for availability and pricing

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Real Presence: A 21st Century Perspective

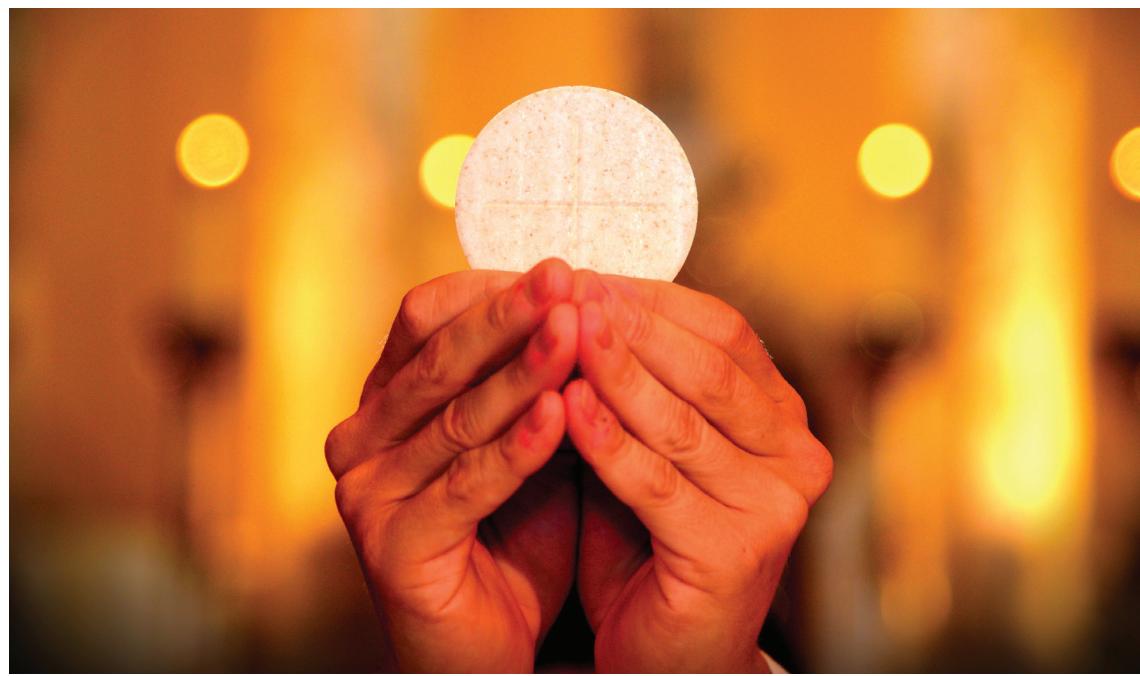
By Rev. Marcus McFadin, D.Min.
Featured Columnist

This past August, the Pew Research Center published a study in which only one-third of U.S. Catholics agreed that the Eucharistic bread and wine are the Body and Blood of Christ as taught by the Church (transubstantiation). Many respondents (primarily millennials) referred to the consecrated bread and wine as "symbols" of Christ. The study revealed that a majority of Catholics are not familiar with the theology of transubstantiation which is key to the Church's teaching on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The question asked is itself ambiguous and can be interpreted in many ways. For example, did some interpret the question to mean physical presence? In addition, we use the word symbol as a liturgical term when speaking of the Eucharist. It is in the language of Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. Maybe what is needed on the catechetical and spiritual side is a post-modern understanding of transubstantiation and symbol that transmits the truth of Church teaching.

One aspect of the Church's new evangelization is to find a language that faithfully transmits the faith to a generation that does not use, or understand, traditional ways of expressing the faith. Millennials, age 23-38, are described as seekers, but have a poorly

formed spiritual imagination. The story of Jesus and his teachings is vaguely understood. They are spiritually thirsty, but skeptical of any institution, or person, who claims to possess the truth. They see life as a journey to be shared with others in search of happiness, fulfillment, and understanding. Within this context, how do we introduce participants, at all levels of religious formation, to Jesus, his message, and how it brings meaning to their lives?

The issue of spiritual formation in parish religious formation programs has been a matter of concern long before the study was released. We do not have a catechetical crisis as much as a spiritual crisis. In one study analyzing why people are leaving, "no one taught me how to pray" is a common response. Spirituality begins with knowing and forming a relationship with Jesus. The General Directory for Catechesis states that the primary purpose of catechesis is to help the student know and form a relationship with Jesus. Pope Francis echoes this in his homilies and encyclicals. Spiritual formation grounded in an understanding of Jesus needs more emphasis in our religious formation programs. From this point we can easily progress to an understanding of Jesus' presence in our lives, in the Eucharist, and its meaning for our spiritual thirst.



A proposal. We believe the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ at the Eucharist. The outward appearance of bread and wine are the outward symbol of the inner reality, Christ's presence. Robert Barron explains, God spoke creation into being and Jesus spoke people into new forms of life, so at Eucharist, Jesus speaks the bread and wine into new reality, the fullness of himself.

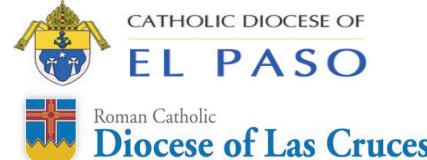
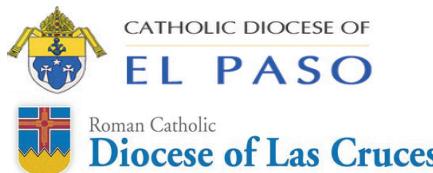
Let us also broaden our understanding of symbol. Symbol is a dynamic word and helps to express multiple meanings. For example, Jesus is the symbol of God. In word and deed Jesus reveals the multiple

identities of God: love, father, healer, comforter, forgiver, etc. At Sunday Eucharist we give thanks to God for what he has done in Christ and is still doing through the Body of Christ, the Church. Just as bread and wine symbolize the presence of Christ, the Church is symbol of Christ as it continues his mission. Christ's real presence is symbolized in actions that reflect the transformative presence of the Kingdom of God, Jesus' central message, Matthew 25:31-46.

Justice, compassion, fairness, honesty, and integrity are some of the virtues Millennials have identified as important to them. Virtues important to

people of faith. It is important to have a program of spirituality that helps participants identify with Jesus and his message, to understand their baptismal identity as children of God, and their participation in Jesus' mission, discipleship. Christianity is not a spectator activity; it is actively revealing the real presence of Jesus by witnessing to his life. As Augustine instructed the newly baptized, become what you receive. We receive Christ in the Eucharist and are conformed to him so we may reveal him to the world.

Visit www.elpasodiocese.org for more videos from Fr. Marcus.



RCIA Institute: Rites of the RCIA

November 8-9, 2019

LOCATION:

St. Luke Catholic Church
930 E Redd Rd
El Paso, TX 79912

COST:

\$50 for all participants

SCHEDULE:

Friday—7:00 PM to 9:30 PM
Saturday—8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

LOCAL CONTACT:

Mary Hernandez
Director of Religious Formation
St. Luke Catholic Church
maryhrndz2@ymail.com
Office: 915-585-0255

REGISTER:

Learn more and sign up at
<http://bit.ly/elpasorites2019>

- Participants will learn how to prepare the assembly for full, conscious, and active participation in the rites
- They will learn how to apply the twelve liturgical principles and the four elements every liturgy must have.
- They will learn how to catechize directly from the rites.
- They will learn how to know when it is okay and even necessary to adapt the rites and when it is better to just follow the book.

PRESENTERS FROM TEAMRCIA



Nick Wagner



Diana Macalintal

LOCAL:

Iglesia Católica de San Lucas
930 E Redd Rd
El Paso, TX 79912

COSTO:

\$50 para todos los participantes

HORAS:

Viernes—7:00 p.m. a 9:30 p.m.
Sabado—8:30 a.m. a 4:00 p.m.

CONTACTO:

Mary Hernandez
Directora de Formación Religiosa
Iglesia Católica de San Lucas
maryhrndz2@ymail.com
Oficina: 915-585-0255

REGISTRO:

Aprenda más y regístrate en
<http://bit.ly/elpasorites2019>

- Los participantes aprenderán cómo preparar la asamblea para una participación plena, consciente y activa en los ritos.

- Aprenderán a aplicar los doce principios litúrgicos y los cuatro elementos que debe tener cada liturgia.

- Aprenderán a catequizar directamente de los ritos.

- Aprenderán a saber cuando es apropiado o necesario adaptar los Ritos y cuando es mejor seguir el libro.

PRESENTADORA DE TEAMRCIA



Rose M. Hernández



Religious Formation Ministry Teaching Youth How to Embrace Christ

By Martha Marmolejo
Progress Coordinator

The Catholic Church is larger than any other single religious institution in the United States, with over 17,000 parishes that serve a large and diverse population. In spite of its size and influence, the church in recent decades has faced a number of significant challenges, from a decline in membership to a shortage of priests and nuns, to not observing the Holy Sacraments. The Pew Research Center 10/10/18

The Diocese of El Paso has also seen a drop in the numbers of Baptisms, First Holy Communions and Weddings, over the past 15 years. But there is good news! Our youth long for God, for community, and for the ability to serve others and here in El Paso, we have the rich culture and traditions of our Mexican Catholic Faith.

Thankfully! In response to those needs in our Diocese, the Religious Formation Ministry, which is supported by the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal, has developed the Centro San Juan Diego, Arts, Cultural, and Faith Formation Center for Youth to pass on our faith-based cultural traditions to middle school youth and our Confirma-

tion youth. Their center is now open and up to date they have worked on different learning areas including a Teaching Kitchen, Art Studio, Media and Technology Room and their new Silk-Screen Studio.

The Teaching Kitchen, is a commercial kitchen based on culinary arts, but specially our traditionally "Mexican Abuelitas" to spiritually learn to nurture and care for each other. The Art Studio is where kids are confronted with what the world is saying and doing. They have the opportunity to critically think and discern in a spiritual ambiance, what Jesus Christ's message would be and how they can apply it to their lives. Those thoughts are put together and are cultivated into art in the form of a designed t-shirt, a cup, a stained-glass piece, a painting or a picture, which they take home to share with their family and friends.

Eventually, the Ministry will be able to make t-shirts that can be sold in order to sustain the center. The Media and Technology Room and Silk-Screen Studio were designed so that kids can learn how to develop religious videos that eventually serve to catechize other kids they learn to put their phones aside and develop a creative mind with



Jesus as their main focus.

Centro San Juan Diego also offers Summer Camps, Saturday Art Classes, an Afterschool Program, Catholic School Field Trips and an Overnight Retreat for middle school youth. The center will focus on a holistic catechesis for middle school and high school youth that challenges youth to be protag-

onists in their faith formation and ministerial service.

Schools and Parishes are invited to engage their religious formation students with these wonderful programs, please contact:

Religious Formation Ministry Director - Veronica Rayas
901 E. Main Dr. E LPL 79902
Phone Number (915) 262-4700

Email - vrayas@elpasodiocese.org

THANK YOU, PROGRESS DONORS! Your Support helps fund the amazing work of the Religious Formation Ministry. To DONATE please visit us at: www.2019Progress.org or call 915-872-8412. Together in Faith we are creating Christ's love in our community!

Centro San Juan Diego, Enseñando Jóvenes a cómo Abrazar a Cristo en el Mundo

By Martha Marmolejo
Progress Coordinator

La Iglesia Católica es más grande que cualquier otra institución religiosa en los Estados Unidos, con más de 17,000 parroquias, las cuales sirven a una población muy grande y diversa. A pesar de su tamaño e influencia, la iglesia en las últimas décadas se ha enfrentado a una serie de desafíos importantes, desde una disminución de la membresía, escasez de sacerdotes y monjas, hasta no observar los Santos Sacramentos. The Pew Research Center 10/10/18

La Diócesis de El Paso también ha visto una disminución en el número de bautismos, primeras comuniones y bodas en los últimos 15 años. ¡Pero hay muy buenas noticias! ¡Nuestra juventud anhela a Dios, a la comunidad y a la capacidad de servir a los demás! Y aquí en El Paso, tenemos la riquísima cultura y tradiciones de nuestra fe católica mexicana.

¡Gracias a Dios! En respuesta a esas necesidades en nuestra Diócesis, el Ministerio de Formación Religiosa, quien cuenta con el apoyo de Progreso: Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos, ha lanzado el Centro San Juan Diego; Centro de Formación de Artes Culturales y Fe para Jóvenes. El principal objetivo del centro es transmitir a jóvenes de

secundaria y en clases de confirmaciones, nuestra tradicional fe y cultura en un ambiente de espiritualidad. El centro está ya abierto, actualizado y ya han trabajado en diferentes áreas de aprendizaje, incluyendo una cocina de enseñanza, estudio de arte, sala de medios y tecnología y su nuevo estudio de pantalla de seda.

La Cocina Diseñada para la Enseñanza es una cocina comercial basada en las artes culinarias, pero especialmente en nuestras tradicionalmente "Abuelitas Mexicanas" quienes nos inculcaron y nos enseñaron a nutrirnos y cuidarnos mutuamente en un contexto espiritual. El Art Studio es donde los niños se enfrentan a lo que el mundo dice y hace. Tienen la oportunidad de pensar críticamente y discernir en un ambiente espiritual cuál sería el mensaje de Jesucristo y cómo pueden aplicarlo a sus vidas. Esos pensamientos se unen y se cultivan en el arte en forma de una camiseta diseñada, una taza, una pieza de vidrieras, una pintura o una imagen, la cual se llevan a casa para compartir con sus familiares y amigos. Eventualmente, el Ministerio podrá hacer camisetas que se pueden vender para sostener el centro. La Sala de Medios y Tecnología y el Silk-Screen Studio fueron diseñados para que los niños puedan aprender a desarrollar videos religiosos que eventual-

mente sirvan para catequizar a otros niños. También para que aprenden a dejar de un lado sus teléfonos y desarrollen una mente creativa con Jesús como su enfoque principal.

El Centro San Juan Diego también ofrece campamentos de verano, clases de arte los sábados, un programa para después de la escuela, excursiones escolares católicas y un retiro nocturno para jóvenes de secundaria. El centro se centrará en una catequesis holística para jóvenes de secundaria y preparatoria y donde se desafía a los jóvenes a que sean protagonistas en su formación de fe y servicio ministerial.

Las escuelas y parroquias están invitadas a que hagan participes a sus estudiantes con estos maravillosos programas, por favor contacte a:

DIRECTORA DEL MINISTERIO DE FORMACIÓN RELIGIOSA: Verónica Rayas
901 E. Mail Dr. El Paso, TX 79902
Teléfono: (915) 262-4700
Correo Electrónico:

vrayas@elpasodiocese.org

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¡Juntos en la Fe estamos creando el amor de Cristo en nuestra comunidad!



Los Envío de Dos en Dos: Matrimonio y Corresponsabilidad

By Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

Llamo a los doce y los fui enviando de dos en dos, dándoles poder sobre los espíritus inmundos. (Marcos 6, 6-7) ¿Ya se han dado cuenta de que Jesús al enviar de dos en dos a sus discípulos, también estaba pensando en ustedes? Justo en ti y en él, justo en ti y en ella. El canto del amor, que resuena desde hace tiempo en sus corazones, tiene un fondo musical que viene desde muy lejos.

La comunidad católica los invita a servir, orar y dar de dos en dos y a platicar sobre cómo llevar una vida corresponsable dentro del matrimonio con los panelistas: Roberto y Norma Gamillo, Sergio y Araceli Guerra, Omar y Ana Ontiveros.

Información de Panelistas:

Roberto y Norma Gamillo sirven en la parroquia de San Marcos en el Ministerio Guadalupano, organizan cada año las fiestas Guadalupanas y ayudan con la catequesis al jesuita Stephen Pitts en la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón. Roberto y Norma llevan 24 años de casados y tienen 3 hijos.

Sergio y Araceli Guerra se encargan de compartir la fe alegremente cada domingo a sus tres hijos. Juntos sirven en la comunidad de San Marcos como ministros de eucaristía y están

encargados de darle seguimiento a los retirantes de A.C.T.S. Sergio y Araceli tienen 25 años de casados.

Omar y Ana Ontiveros sirven en la misión de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado. Ambos son líderes del ministerio de proclamadores, ministerio de limpieza, consejo pastoral y son catequistas cada semana. Omar Ontiveros es el corresponsable del año del 2019. Omar y Ana tienen 4 hijos.

La discusión de panel será llevada a cabo en la parroquia de San Antonio de Padua, 503 Hunter Dr. El Paso, TX 79915 el miércoles 16 de octubre, de 6:00 – 8:00 pm. El evento es libre de costo y se servirán refrigerios.

Para asistir favor de registrarse con Karina Sandoval, Coordinadora en Corresponsabilidad al 915-872-8412 o ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org

Y los envío de dos en dos: Matrimonio y Corresponsabilidad
Discusión de Panel con: Roberto y Norma Gamillo, Sergio y Araceli Guerra,

Omar y Ana Ontiveros
Parroquia de San Antonio de Padua: Salón Parroquial
503 Hunter Dr. El Paso, TX 79915
Miércoles, 16 de octubre del 2019
6:00-8:00 pm



Mass attendance count will be conducted twice in October

By Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso has decided to conduct the Mass attendance count twice in order to garner a more accurate account. Bishop Mark Seitz will ask that all parishes, missions, seminaries, and convents count how many parishioners attend mass in the weekends of the 12 & 13, and 19 & 20 of October and to note the language of each celebration!

Previous Mass attendance counts has helped the Diocese analyze the diocesan community, and prompted to make effective pastoral decisions for the greater glory of God. The Foundation believes that two

Mass attendance counts will assist the Diocese to receive a number that is closer to the reality.

Stewardship Coordinator, Karina Sandoval will coordinate the Mass attendance count materials and will be responsible to average both weekend counts. She will report the average number to the Diocese and make it publicly in our December issue, The Bridge radio station and in the Foundation media. Stay tuned!

Please don't forget to be counted on the weekends of 12 & 13, and 19 & 20.

If you have any questions please contact Karina Sandoval at 915-872-8412 or ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org



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Catholic Foundation Raises \$192,530 at Annual Dinner

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

The Catholic Foundation raised \$192,530 during the 13th Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner: When We Sing, We Pray Twice with award winning Catholic singer songwriter Matt Maher through sponsorships, table and ticket sales, a live auction, and donations. This year's festivities included a VIP event for sponsors, Mass with Bishop Mark & Music by Matt Maher, and the annual dinner. The community was moved and inspired by Matt Maher's performances during Mass at St. Raphael Parish and the Dinner & Concert on Thursday, September 19, 2019. The positive response was overwhelming and provided healing and a renewed energy to evangelize.

Nora & Ernie Herrera hosted a beautiful evening for sponsors on Wednesday, September 18 at The Herrera Group, a historic Trost home built in 1912 and located across from St. Patrick Cathedral. Dr. & Mrs. Carlos & Teresita Corral donated delicious food for the VIP event and guests mingled and took photos with Matt Maher throughout the night.

Our community was also treated to an inspiring Mass hosted by St. Raphael Parish. The church, which has a capacity of 1,200, was completely full. After the celebration, attendees enjoyed an impromptu performance of "Your Grace Is Enough" by Matt Maher and Peter Kolar on accordion. Peter is the Music Editor at GIA Publications, Director of the El Paso Diocesan Choir, and a composer. A very special thanks to Bishop Mark for presiding, Fr. Tony Celino, Pastor of St. Raphael Parish for hosting, and Peter Kolar and Nathan Stell for their musical and logistical support.

Proceeds from the annual Foundation of Faith Dinner benefit the Foundation whose only purpose is to serve the Catholic Church in the Diocese of El Paso. 100% of the proceeds from all needs packages—annual retreats for college students at UTEP and Sul Ross Newman Centers, fuel for priests serving seven parishes and 12 missions in West Texas, hymnals for children at El Buen Pastor Mission, scholarships for students attending St. Pius X Catholic School, and faith



El Paso youth enjoying one of their favorite Christian artists. The Catholic Foundation raised \$192,530 during the 13th Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner: When We Sing, We Pray Twice with award winning Catholic singer songwriter Matt Maher. *Photo by Alejandra Saldaña*

formation textbooks for Santa Teresa de Jesús in Presidio—benefit the designated school, need, parish, charity, or fund. Different needs are highlighted each year at the Foundation of Faith Dinner. It's through the cooperative efforts of the churches, schools, parishioners, and diocesan ministries that the Foundation has flourished.

Father Anthony C. Celino, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar and Pastor of St. Raphael Parish, Father Marcus McFadin, D.Min., Director of the Office of Worship and Pastor of St. Luke Parish, and Father Mark N.P. Salas, Pastor of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, generously gave of themselves and raised \$25,700 for the St. Raphael Catholic School Endowment Fund, St. Luke Parish Endowment Fund, and the Seminarian Education Endowment Fund, respectively. Two generous couples bid \$10,000 for golf and lunch with Fr. Tony, two couples bid \$7,000 for an Italian Dinner for 6 prepared and served by Fr.

Marcus, and three couples bid \$8,700 for an Edwardian Dinner for 6 prepared and served by Fr. Mark. The Foundation honored five priests from Pecos with "The Pecos" auction package. This group of priests all have one thing in common: their vocation was born and bred in Pecos, Texas. Friar Andy Martinez, OFM, Conv., Reverend Monsignor Arturo Bañuelas, S.T.D., Father Pablo Matta, Father Pete García, and Father Trini Fuentez inspired guests to donate \$10,450 to the Retired Priest Appreciation Fund. Thank you to live auctioneer, Victoria Pineda, for doing an outstanding job and congratulations on her 600th auction!

The 5th Annual Dei Gratia Award was presented to Yazbik† and Rosalie Daw by Foundation of Faith Dinner Committee Chair, Andi Meece. The Dei Gratia Award, Latin for "By the Grace of God", recognizes an individual, couple, or organization for their servant leadership,

outstanding contribution to the Diocese of El Paso and our Catholic community, and their dedication to being good stewards of God's grace. Andi told a crowd of 1,000 guests, "God's grace has never been taken for granted, or wasted on, tonight's honorees. This special couple have been faithful and grateful stewards of God's grace and it has become their legacy."

We give special thanks to all of our Foundation of Faith Dinner Sponsors. Without their support and generosity, this event would not have been possible: Gold Sponsor, the Bowling Family Charitable Foundation; Silver Sponsors Mr. & Mrs. Michael M. & Clara Miles, Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Patti Yetter, Salom Investments, The Glass House, and The Herrera Group; and our Bronze Sponsors, Chick-fil-A North Hills Crossing, Daw's Home Furnishings, Farrish, Halter, Butler Wealth Management Group, Freeport-McMoran, James and Tina Milam, Rosario & Octavio

Licón Charity Trust, State Farm Team Casillas, Tom & Andi Meece, Travel with Kerry, and Youth for Jesus.

Our deepest gratitude to committee chair, Andi Meece, and to committee members, Cecilia Mesta, Karen Martino, Machelle Vanecek, and Rosario Licón for their hard work and prayers to ensure another successful, faith-filled, and inspiring 13th Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner.

Thank you to everyone who generously helped us make this event come together to become a success. We are #ElPaSOSTRONG. Mark your calendar for the 14th Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner on Thursday, September 17, 2020!

You can reach Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at slarkin@elpasodiocese.org or 915.872.8412. The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso is located at 499 St. Matthews Street and office hours are Monday – Friday, 9-12, 1-5, and by appointment.

Special Collections

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27, 2019 for the Propagation of the Faith.

In 1926 Pope Pius XI instituted Mission Sunday for the whole Church with the first worldwide Mission Sunday collection taking place in October 1927. The Mission Sunday collection is always taken on the next to last Sunday during the month of October. That day is celebrated in all the local Churches as the feast of catholicity and universal solidarity so Christians the world over will recognize their common responsibility with regard to the evangelization of the world.

On the weekend of October 26 and 27, 2019, please take the opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. Thank you for your support.

Colecta para la Propagación de la Fe/el Domingo Mundial de las Misiones

Habrá una Ofrenda Especial Anual el sábado, 26 de octubre y el domingo, 27 de octubre del 2019 para las Propagación de la Fe/el Domingo Mundial de las Misiones

En 1926 el Papa Pío XI instituyó el Domingo Mundial para toda la Iglesia con la primera colecta mundial recaudada en octubre de 1927. La colecta del Domingo Mundial se lleva a cabo el penúltimo domingo del mes de octubre. Este día se aclama la celebración religiosa del catolicismo y de la solidaridad universal para que todos los cristianos católicos reconozcamos nuestra responsabilidad con el deber de evangelización del mundo entero.

En el fin de semana del 26 y 27 de octubre del 2019, por favor dé se la oportunidad de contribuir a esta digna causa. Gracias por su apoyo.

St. Charles Seminary's New Faces

By Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

St. Charles Seminary is beginning the year with three new seminarians and a new rector.

Marcos Puentes, 20, Angel Crespo, 18, and Vicente Cobos, 25, are the three new diocesan seminarians at St. Charles. Father John Telles is returning as the Seminary rector at St. Charles after 9 years away from St. Charles in other pastoral assignments.

"I am delighted to be back," Fr. John Telles said. "It's a very wonderful ministry to form our young men to be priests in the image of Jesus Christ," he added. "I hope the experience for our young men in the coming year is a good foundation for their continued discernment to the priesthood for the Diocese of El Paso," Father John said.

The St. Charles Seminarians shared their hopes for the beginning of their seminary formation. The youngest of the three, Angel Crespo, shared his thoughts on entering St. Charles.

"This is a fun and nurturing time to be here in the seminary," First-year Seminarian Angel Crespo said. "We get to have this opportunity to get to know God and each other as brothers

as we continue on this journey of formation together," he said.

Marcos Puentes, 20, shared how he feels that at St. Charles he will have support from his brother seminarians to help him come to a closer encounter with Jesus.

"It's great that we get to experience this encounter with Jesus together," Marcos Puentes said. "We can always lean on each other like family whenever we have a rough patch, and that for me is a very comforting thing." He added.

Vicente Cobos, 25, is the oldest young seminarian at St. Charles. He looks forward to the coming year and to growing his faith in his continuing discernment to the priesthood.

"I feel that this first year of discernment will be a very momentous time for me," Cobos said. "I am very much looking forward to this year and to look deeper into my faith to see in discernment whether or not the priesthood is the right fit for me. I hope to learn more about the church and begin to figure out where my place in the church will be in the future, and this a good place to start," he ended.

Father John hopes that as these seminarians live the Gospel of the Lord very seriously in their formation and in their



St. Charles Seminary Rector Fr. John Telles, photographed with seminarians, Marcos Puentes, Angel Crespo, and Vicente Cobos. *Photo by Fernie Ceniceros*

lives.

"It's essential that all of our young men live the Gospel in their lives," he said. People are looking to have an encounter with God, especially young people. And that's why we need holy men of Christ in the priesthood to help people have an encounter with Jesus in their

lives," he said.

Father John goes on to quote Saint Augustine in talking about these young men at St. Charles.

"St. Augustine said, 'Our hearts are restless, until they rest in you, God.' And that's true for any human at any age. We have to meet young people at their level. Our young people want

to believe in something, and as long as we are open to that, this group of young people will find that God always has a place for them in our church," he ended.

St. Charles Seminary is located at 8330 Park Haven Dr. For more information about Vocations, call the office of Vocations at 915-872-8400.

Nuevos comienzos del Seminario San Carlos

Por Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

St. Charles Seminary está comenzando el año con tres nuevos seminaristas y un nuevo rector.

Marcos Puentes, 20, Angel Crespo, 18 y Vicente Cobos, 25 son los tres nuevos seminaristas diocesanos en St. Charles. El padre John Telles regresa como rector del seminario en St. Charles después de 9 años lejos de St. Charles en otras tareas pastorales.

"Estoy encantado de volver", el Padre. Dijo John Telles. "Es un ministerio maravilloso formar a nuestros jóvenes para que sean sacerdotes a imagen de Jesucristo", agregó. "Espero que la experiencia de nuestros jóvenes en el próximo año sea una buena base para su continuo discernimiento al sacerdocio de la Diócesis de El Paso", dijo el Padre John.

Los seminaristas de San Carlos compartieron sus esperanzas para el comienzo de su formación en el seminario. El más joven de los tres, Angel Crespo, compartió sus pensamientos al ingresar a St. Charles.

"Este es un momento divertido y enriquecedor para estar aquí en el seminario", dijo el seminarista de primer año Angel Crespo. "Tenemos la oportunidad de conocer a Dios y a los demás como hermanos mientras continuamos juntos en este viaje de formación", dijo.

Marcos Puentes, de 20 años, compartió cómo siente que en St. Charles contará con el apoyo de sus seminaristas hermanos para ayudarlo a tener un encuentro más cercano con Jesús.

"Es genial que podamos experimentar este encuentro con Jesús juntos", dijo Marcos Puentes. "Siempre podemos apoyarnos el uno en el otro como familia cada vez que tengamos una mala racha, y eso para mí es algo muy reconfortante", agregó.

Vicente Cobos, de 25 años, es el joven seminarista más viejo de St. Charles. Espera con ansias el próximo año y crecer su fe en su continuo discernimiento al sacerdocio.

"Siento que este primer año de discernimiento será un momento muy importante para mí", dijo Cobos. "Estoy ansioso por este año y profundizar en mi fe para ver con discernimiento si el sacerdocio es el adecuado para mí. Espero aprender más sobre la iglesia y comenzar a determinar dónde estará mi lugar en la iglesia en el futuro, y este es un buen lugar para comenzar", finalizó.

El Padre John espera que estos seminaristas vivan el Evangelio del Señor muy en serio en su formación y en sus vidas.

"Es esencial que todos nuestros jóvenes vivan el Evangelio en sus vidas", dijo. Las personas buscan tener un encuentro con Dios, especialmente los jóvenes. Y



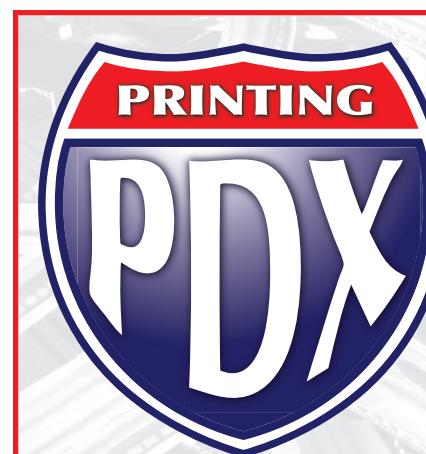
St. Charles Seminary Rector Fr. John Telles, and seminarians, Marcos Puentes, Angel Crespo, and Vicente Cobos at the August 3rd Memorial at the Pastoral Center in August. *Photo by Fernie Ceniceros*

es por eso que necesitamos hombres santos de Cristo en el sacerdote para ayudar a las personas a tener un encuentro con Jesús en sus vidas", dijo.

El padre John continúa citando a San Agustín al hablar de estos jóvenes en St. Charles.

"S. t. Agustín dijo: "Nuestros corazones están inquietos, hasta que descansen en ti, Dios". Y eso es cierto para cualquier humano a cualquier edad. Tenemos que conocer a los jóvenes a su nivel. Nuestros jóvenes quieren creer en algo, y mientras estemos abiertos a eso, este grupo de jóvenes descubrirá que Dios siempre tiene un lugar para ellos en nuestra iglesia", finalizó.

El Seminario St. Charles está ubicado en 8330 Park Haven Dr. Para obtener más información sobre Vocaciones, llame a la oficina de Vocationes al 915-872-8400.



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