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# THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

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Celebrating 30 Years serving the Diocese of El Paso

October 2021

## Emertius Bishop Peña Passes at 87

By Fernie Cenicerros  
*Editor, Rio Grande Catholic*

Bishop Emeritus Raymundo J. Peña passed away peacefully under the care of a nursing home in San Juan, Texas, at the age of 87.

Peña was El Paso's Bishop from 1980 until 1995, when he was assigned by St. Pope John Paul II to serve the faithful in the Diocese of Brownsville. He was a strong advocate for immigration rights along the border and a fierce critic of the raising of the border fence in El Paso. Peña was a strong leader in the community and a friend to many of the faithful. He will be missed in all the areas in which he served the people of God.

During his 15 year tenure as the 4th Bishop of El Paso, Bishop Peña founded the Tepeyac Institute in 1988 as a formation center for the lay faithful of the diocese. He founded The Rio Grande Catholic diocesan newspaper in 1991 and also founded the Progress Ministry Appeal to help fund the diocesan ministries serving the Diocese of El Paso.

He was installed as Bishop of Brownsville and served as its ordinary until he reached the retirement age of 75 in 2009. His resignation was accepted by Pope Benedict XVI, who then named Bishop Daniel E. Flores as Bishop of Brownsville.

At the Funeral Mass, Bishop Daniel E. Flores of the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville stated "The difficult road that Bishop travels since the 1930's when he was born of expressing the voice and the presence and the gift that is that particular unique culture



Bishop Emeritus Raymundo J. Peña passed away peacefully under the care of a nursing home in San Juan, Texas, at the age of 87. Bishop Peña was El Paso's Bishop from 1980 until 1995, when he was assigned by St. Pope John Paul II to serve the faithful in the Diocese of Brownsville. *File Photo El Paso Diocesan Archive.*

of the Mexican American in South Texas." Flores delivered a homily in both English and Spanish.

"When we were little, you know, the phrase was that we were neither from here nor from there. It is part of the fight to express our presence and gift. It was very distinct. I would only say that the Monsignor taught us something very important,

be able to affirm publicly that we are from here, but we are also from there," Bishop Flores added.

Bishop Peña was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, he was the son of Cosme A. Peña and Elisa Ramon Peña. He attended St. John's Seminary, and Assumption Seminary, both in San Antonio, Texas. He was ordained to the order of priesthood in 1957

at the Corpus Christi Cathedral by the Most Reverend Mariano S. Garriaga, D.D., LL.D. in Corpus Christi, Texas.

In 1976 he was ordained to the Order of Bishop and was named Auxiliary to the Archbishop of San Antonio. In 1979 he served as Administrator Sede Vacante for the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

"Our prayers are with the soul

of Bishop Peña and his entire family during this difficult time," Bishop Mark J. Seitz said. "We pray that as he makes the transition to his home with Our Heavenly Father, he may intercede for us, and all the faithful he served during his ministry on earth." He added.

## Fallece El Obispo Emertius Peña al los 87 Años

Por Fernie Cenicerros  
*Editor, Rio Grande Catholic*

El Obispo Emérito Raymundo J. Peña falleció en paz bajo el cuidado de un hogar de ancianos en San Juan, Texas, a la edad de 87 años.

Peña fue obispo de El Paso desde 1980 hasta 1995, cuando fue asignado por el Papa Juan Pablo II para servir a los fieles de la diócesis de Brownsville. Fue un firme defensor de los derechos de los inmigrantes a lo largo de la frontera y un feroz crítico del levantamiento de la valla fronteriza en El Paso. Peña era un fuerte líder en la comunidad y un amigo

de muchos fieles. Se le echará de menos en todas las áreas en las que sirvió al pueblo de Dios.

Durante su mandato de 15 años como cuarto obispo de El Paso, el obispo Peña fundó el Instituto Tepeyac en 1988 como centro de formación para los fieles laicos de la diócesis. Fundó el periódico católico de la diócesis de Río Grande en 1991 y también fundó la Campaña del Ministerio del Progreso para ayudar a financiar los ministerios diocesanos que sirven a la diócesis de El Paso.

Fue instalado como Obispo de Brownsville y sirvió como su ordinario hasta que alcanzó la edad de jubilación de 75 años

en 2009. Su renuncia fue aceptada por el Papa Benedicto XVI, quien entonces nombró al Obispo Daniel E. Flores como Obispo de Brownsville.

En la Misa Funeral, el Obispo Daniel E. Flores de la Diócesis Católica de Brownsville declaró "El difícil camino que recorre el Obispo desde los años 30 cuando nació de expresar la voz y la presencia y el don que es esa cultura particular y única del mexicano americano en el sur de Texas". Flores pronunció una homilía en inglés y en español.

"Cuando éramos pequeños, la frase era que no éramos ni de aquí ni de allá. Es parte de la lucha

para expresar nuestra presencia y don. Era algo muy distinto. Yo sólo diría que Monseñor nos enseñó algo muy importante, poder afirmar públicamente que somos de aquí, pero también somos de allá", agregó Monseñor Flores.

El Obispo Peña nació en Corpus Christi, Texas, era hijo de Cosme A. Peña y Elisa Ramón Peña. Estudió en el Seminario de San Juan y en el Seminario de la Asunción, ambos en San Antonio, Texas. Fue ordenado sacerdote en 1957 en la Catedral de Corpus Christi por el Reverendo Mariano S. Garriaga, D.D., LL.D. en Corpus Christi, Texas.

En 1976 fue ordenado Obispo

y nombrado Auxiliar del Arzobispo de San Antonio. En 1979 fue Administrador Sede Vacante de la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio.

"Nuestras oraciones están con el alma del Obispo Peña y toda su familia durante este difícil momento", dijo el Obispo Mark J. Seitz. "Rezamos para que mientras hace la transición a su hogar con Nuestro Padre Celestial, pueda interceder por nosotros, y por todos los fieles a los que sirvió durante su ministerio en la tierra". Añadió.



EDITOR'S COLUMN

# Our Ministry is a Labor of Love

If someone had told me three years ago, in October 2018, I would be working for the Catholic Church in El Paso and would be in the thick of using my talents to bring weekly masses to the homes of thousands of El Pasoans weekly. I'm not entirely sure what my reaction would have been.

And here we are, October of 2021, and I am immersed in one of the most rewarding facets of my ministry as the producer and director of our weekly broadcast. Every week, we work hard to bring our Sunday liturgies to the homes of many Catholics who cannot join us in person.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we are all quickly thrust into this facet of communications in bringing Sunday liturgies to the borderland. As we have moved through the pandemic,



Fernie Cenicerros

we have worked very hard to continue to get our homebound and elderly Catholics the ability to be present with us on Sundays. It is gratifying to work, and as Director of Communications, along with our Bishop, we will continue to bring this weekly liturgy as long as we possibly can.

With that said, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that has worked so hard to help bring this liturgy into the

homes of El Pasoans. First, let me thank everyone at KVIA, ABC 7, for forming a partnership that allowed us to bring the English TV Mass into your homes via Channel 7.2 the CW, and now the Spanish Liturgy via Channel 7.4 TV Azteca.

I want to thank Entravision for their support over the last 18 months for producing and airing the TV Mass from March 2020 to July 2021.

I would also like to thank Fr. Jose Alfredo Ramirez and everyone at St. Francis of Assisi on the westside for being a the home base and starting point for our Spanish masses, along with various parishes we have taken the time to visit over these 18 months. We are working hard to ensure that we visit every corner of our diocese to celebrate Spanish masses with all of you.

I want to thank everyone at St. Patrick Cathedral as they have welcomed us with open arms to bring you all of our English Liturgies from there.

A Very Special Thank you to Chris and Alissa Saenz, our Audio Engineers and closed captioners for the English TV Mass. Their commitment to this ministry is unmatched.

Finally, I would like to thank the following individuals for being so committed to bringing you these liturgies - Fr. Marcus McFadin, Fr. Miguel Perez, Edna Rocha, Jennifer Silva, Vanessa Lopez, Mary Miller, Peter Kolar, Lee Ann Beck, Robert Velez, Adrian Zamora, Nathen Stell, Rolando Guerrero, the core of Lectors from St. Patrick Cathedral, Linda Caro and the Entire Catholic Foundation Family, Fr. Jose Alfredo Ramirez, Deacon

Alfonso Sandoval, the entire ministry team at St. Francis of Assisi, Fr. Michael Lewis, Fr. Peter Precourt, Deacon Jose William Arevalo, Deacon Andy Ruvalcaba, Sister Margie Silguero, Christopher Velasquez, Christ Chavez, and Mariano Weller. We most certainly could not do it without the help and unwavering service of any of these individuals.

Finally, I would like to thank our donors who have donated to their parishes via our TV Masses and contributed to our weekly productions. We are working to provide various new opportunities for you to assist us fiscally in providing our TV Masses. Stay tuned to all of our social media outlets, this newspaper, and our diocesan website once we can unveil those new opportunities to you to donate to the TV masses.

## Nuestro Ministerio Es Una Labor De Amor

Si alguien me hubiera dicho hace tres años, en octubre de 2018, que estaría trabajando para la Iglesia católica de El Paso y que estaría en pleno uso de mis talentos para llevar misas semanales a los hogares de miles de eldenses semanalmente. No estoy del todo seguro de cuál habría sido mi reacción.

Y aquí estamos, octubre de 2021, y estoy inmerso en una de las facetas más gratificantes de mi ministerio como productor y director de nuestra emisión semanal. Cada semana, trabajamos duro para llevar nuestras liturgias dominicales a los hogares de muchos católicos que no pueden unirse a nosotros en persona.

Al principio de la pandemia, todos nos vimos rápidamente abocados a esta faceta de la comunicación para llevar las liturgias dominicales a la frontera. A medida que hemos

ido avanzando en la pandemia, hemos trabajado muy duro para seguir consiguiendo que nuestros católicos confinados en casa y ancianos puedan estar presentes con nosotros los domingos. Es un trabajo gratificante, y como Director de Comunicaciones, junto con nuestro Obispo, seguiremos llevando esta liturgia semanal mientras podamos.

Dicho esto, me gustaría aprovechar esta oportunidad para agradecer a aquellos que han trabajado tan duro para ayudar a llevar esta liturgia a los hogares de EL Paso. En primer lugar, permítanme agradecer a todos en KVIA, ABC 7, por formar una asociación que nos permitió llevar la misa en inglés a sus hogares a través del canal 7.2 the CW, y ahora la liturgia en español a través del canal 7.4 TV Azteca.

Quiero agradecer a Entravision

y su apoyo durante los últimos 18 años para producir y transmitir la Misa por TV desde marzo de 2020 hasta julio de 2021.

También me gustaría agradecer al Padre José Alfredo Ramírez y a todos en San Francisco de Asís en el lado oeste por ser una base improvisada para nuestras misas en español, junto con varias parroquias que hemos tomado el tiempo para visitar en estos 18 meses. Estamos trabajando duro para asegurar que visitamos cada rincón de nuestra diócesis para celebrar misas en español con todos ustedes.

Quiero agradecer a todos en la Catedral de San Patricio ya que nos han recibido con los brazos abiertos para traerles todas nuestras liturgias en inglés desde allí.

Un agradecimiento muy especial a Chris y Alissa Saenz, nuestros ingenieros de audio y subtituladores para la misa en

inglés por televisión. Su compromiso con este ministerio es inigualable.

Finalmente, me gustaría agradecer a las siguientes personas por su compromiso con estas liturgias: el Padre Marcus McFadin, el Padre Miguel Pérez, Edna Rocha, Jennifer Silva, Vanessa López, Mary Miller, Peter Kolar, Lee Ann Beck, Robert Vélez, Adrián Zamora, Nathen Stell, Rolando Guerrero, el grupo de Lectores de la Catedral de San Patricio, Linda Caro y el personal de la Iglesia. Patrick, Linda Caro y toda la familia de la Fundación Católica, el Padre José Alfredo Ramírez, el Diácono Alfonso Sandoval, todo el equipo ministerial de San Francisco de Asís, el Padre Michael Lewis, el Padre Peter Precourt, el Diácono José William Arévalo, el Diácono Andy Ruvalcaba, la Hermana Margie Silguero, Chris-

topher Velásquez, Cristo Chávez y Mariano Weller. Ciertamente no podríamos hacerlo sin la ayuda y el servicio inquebrantable de cualquiera de estas personas.

Finalmente, me gustaría agradecer a nuestros donantes que han donado a sus parroquias a través de nuestras misas televisadas y han contribuido a nuestras producciones semanales. Estamos trabajando para proporcionar varias oportunidades nuevas para que nos ayuden fiscalmente en la prestación de nuestras misas por televisión. Estén atentos a todos nuestros medios de comunicación social, a este periódico y a nuestro sitio web diocesano una vez que podamos desvelar esas nuevas oportunidades para donar a las misas por televisión.

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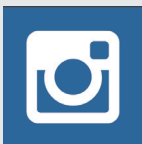
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# It’s Time to Wake Up

Do you ever have the feeling that this Pandemic, the first in our experience, is really just a bad dream? Do you feel like one day we will just wake up and then we will be able to get back to normal daily life? For many of us it is like a bad dream that appears as though it may never end. It just seems to go on and on constantly opening new chapters, with different variants and ongoing vaccine boosters and etcetera.

Thinking in terms of that ongoing bad dream may also help us to understand how it is that we in our life of faith have been lulled to sleep and settled for a somewhat drowsy Catholicism. Ok, I’ll put it another way: some of us have gotten a bit lazy in our practice of the Faith, or maybe our life of Faith always tended to look for the shortcuts, the minimum, the least we needed to do to consider ourselves good Catholics.

Many of us are even finding it a burden now to go to Mass on the Lord’s Day. That hour in Church seems like a lot to ask,

when we really want to have 3 hours or more to watch football or a movie or go shopping. If that is the case it may say a lot about how God really rates in our life. We can make a lot of excuses, like, “I can worship God anywhere,” or, “I work so hard every other day.” But underneath it all we know the truth. We have just pushed the most important relationship in our life, that is our relationship with God, to the bottom of the pile.

Well, it is time that we all heard the alarm calling us to wake up and smell the coffee. It is time for us to reorder our priorities and to discover the tremendous potential God has given us for His worship and service. God deserves our worship. When we participate in Mass we are not doing God a favor; we are doing exactly that for which we were created. We are finding our true purpose and the deeper meaning of our life. I wonder how much of the depression people struggle with today would be overcome if we all were clear on why we are on this

earth and where we are meant to be heading? And when we discover this purpose and are lifted up in the worship of God, then we begin to see that God has a plan for our action in the world. By receiving Christ, we are transformed into God’s presence in the world and we are privileged to do God’s work here.

There are so many needs! If each of us would do our part imagine what we could accomplish. Allow me to mention just a few. This October is Respect Life Month. We Catholics have not lived up to our responsibility to be speaking up for innocent unborn children who are under great threat in our society, nor have we been there as effectively as we should to assist expectant mothers to have the support they need to bring their baby to birth. It is good to try to improve the laws, but it is even more important to change hearts and to provide alternatives to abortion.

Our love of life should also lead us to have a special love for others in our world who are vul-



Bishop Mark J. Seitz



nerable and suffering. Who can deny that among the poorest and most vulnerable in our world today are those brothers and sisters of ours from other countries who have been forced to flee their homes and have come to our borders seeking just a safe place to live and work for themselves and their children.

It appears that in these days El Paso and our borderland region is being given an opportunity to have a vital role in the journey of many to the safe haven that our country can offer. We have people crossing our borders from the south. They desperately need our help along the way. And

we also have become a place of initial welcome for those fleeing the persecution of the Taliban in Afghanistan after assisting American soldiers in their country at great personal risk.

I have seen and I am convinced that we in our community can rise to these needs. All we need is to allow ourselves to be awakened to a new more vital Faith—a Faith that is transformed by our worship of God and then goes out to transform the world!

# Es Hora De Despertar

¿Alguna vez ha tenido la sensación de que esta pandemia, la primera en nuestra experiencia, es realmente un mal sueño? ¿Sientes que un día nos despertaremos y podremos volver a la vida cotidiana normal? Para muchos de nosotros es como un mal sueño que parece que nunca va a terminar. Parece que sigue y sigue abriendo constantemente nuevos capítulos, con diferentes variantes y refuerzos de vacunas en curso, etcétera.

Pensar en ese mal sueño continuo también puede ayudarnos a entender cómo es que en nuestra vida de fe hemos sido adormecidos y nos hemos conformado con un catolicismo un tanto somnoliento. Vale, lo diré de otra manera: algunos nos hemos vuelto un poco perezosos en nuestra práctica de la Fe, o quizás nuestra vida de Fe siempre ha tendido a buscar los atajos, lo mínimo, lo menos que teníamos que hacer para considerarnos buenos católicos.

A muchos de nosotros nos resulta incluso una carga ir a Misa el día del Señor. Esa hora en la Iglesia parece mucho pedir, cuando realmente queremos tener 3 horas o más para ver el fútbol o una película o ir de compras. Si ese es el caso, puede decir mucho acerca de cómo Dios realmente valora nuestra vida. Podemos poner muchas excusas, como: “Puedo adorar a Dios en cualquier lugar”, o “Trabajo mucho cada dos días”. Pero en el fondo sabemos la verdad. Acabamos de empujar la relación más importante de nuestra vida, que es nuestra relación con Dios, al fondo del montón.

Pues bien, es hora de que todos oigamos la alarma que nos llama a despertar y oler



el café. Es hora de reordenar nuestras prioridades y descubrir el tremendo potencial que Dios nos ha dado para su adoración y servicio. Dios merece nuestra adoración. Cuando participamos en la misa no le estamos haciendo un favor a Dios; estamos haciendo exactamente aquello para lo que fuimos creados. Estamos encontrando nuestro verdadero propósito y el significado más profundo de nuestra vida. Me pregunto cuánta de la depresión con la que lucha la gente hoy en día se superaría si todos tuviéramos claro por qué estamos en esta tierra y hacia dónde debemos dirigirnos.

Y cuando descubrimos este propósito y nos elevamos en la adoración de Dios, entonces empezamos a ver que Dios tiene

un plan para nuestra acción en el mundo. Al recibir a Cristo, nos transformamos en la presencia de Dios en el mundo y tenemos el privilegio de hacer la obra de Dios aquí.

¡Hay tantas necesidades! Si cada uno de nosotros pusiera de su parte, imagina lo que podríamos lograr. Permítanme mencionar sólo algunas. Este octubre es el Mes del Respeto a la Vida. Los católicos no hemos estado a la altura de nuestra responsabilidad de hablar en favor de los niños inocentes no nacidos, que se encuentran bajo una gran amenaza en nuestra sociedad, ni hemos estado allí con la eficacia que deberíamos para ayudar a las futuras madres a tener el apoyo que necesitan para llevar a su bebé al mundo. Es bueno

intentar mejorar las leyes, pero es aún más importante cambiar los corazones y ofrecer alternativas al aborto.

Nuestro amor por la vida también debería llevarnos a tener un amor especial por otros en nuestro mundo que son vulnerables y sufren. Quién puede negar que entre los más pobres y vulnerables de nuestro mundo se encuentran hoy esos hermanos y hermanas nuestros de otros países que se han visto obligados a huir de sus hogares y han venido a nuestras fronteras buscando tan sólo un lugar seguro donde vivir y trabajar para ellos y sus hijos.

Parece que en estos días a El Paso y a nuestra región fronteriza se les está dando la oportunidad de tener un papel vital en el

viaje de muchos hacia el refugio seguro que nuestro país puede ofrecer. Hay personas que cruzan nuestras fronteras desde el sur. Necesitan desesperadamente nuestra ayuda en el camino. Y también nos hemos convertido en un lugar de acogida inicial para aquellos que huyen de la persecución de los talibanes en Afganistán, después de ayudar a los soldados estadounidenses en su país con gran riesgo personal.

He visto y estoy convencido de que en nuestra comunidad podemos estar a la altura de estas necesidades. Todo lo que necesitamos es dejarnos despertar a una nueva Fe más vital, una Fe que se transforma con nuestra adoración a Dios y que luego sale a transformar el mundo.



# Diocese Says Goodbye To Two Longtime Staff Members

By Christopher Velsaquez  
Staff Writer, Rio Grande Catholic

Lupe Aguilera, Administrative Assistant to Bishop Mark J. Seitz, retired from the Office of the Bishop in September after 23 years of service. She leaves a legacy of serving the diocese passionately under two Bishops. Having first begun a career as a secretary in the legal field, it was at the suggestion of her son, a Cathedral High School graduate, that Aguilera looked into opportunities at the diocese and saw an opening for the secretary to the Bishop. It was at that moment that she knew that God had called her to this opportunity.

As a child, she attended Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School and later attended Father Yermo High School. The values she gained from school and her parents, who were active in ministry, provided her with a strong foundation of faith. Aguilera said, “I remember being a catechist at a very young age. All my brothers and sisters were all in ministry, so I credit my parents for that type of upbringing in addition to my Catholic education.”

Looking back at her service in the diocese, Lupe said that her joy was in the mission of the Church. “The main purpose is for the poor and the others that are not recognized.” She credits working in the Bishop’s office as what inspired her to learn more about her faith. In 2013, she began her studies towards her Masters in pastoral studies and Catholic theology, which she says opened up a new world for her and further strengthened her love for the Church.

Embarking upon her new

journey as a caregiver, she is grateful to have been of service to the faithful community of the diocese.

Deacon Frank Segura found his faith deepened while serving in the Navy during the Vietnam era. During this time, he learned that people were praying the rosary for him while he was overseas.

Segura further found his life changed due to an unexpected wedding invitation by a friend to his hometown in El Paso, TX. It was there that he met his future wife. Five years after sharing vows, Segura and his wife attended a World-Wide Marriage Encounter, which convinced him to work for the Church. He states, “The call at the Marriage Encounter was for us to go to our Parish Priest and offer our help.”

It was that long journey of serving the Lord in ministry and as a married couple that led him to the call of the Diaconate. After a family commitment, Segura became a Deacon and later became the Director of Marriage and Family Life. Deacon Frank found joy in knowing that his work was part of God’s plan. He further states, “He has a plan for everyone, and when we enter through that door, Jesus Christ opens up to us and increases our territory and opens up many more opportunities.”

Despite not being the Director of Marriage and Family life, Deacon Frank continues his ministry as a Deacon. He is always eager to serve and trusts that God will always provide.

As they both leave their positions at the diocese, they expressed their appreciation for serving in the Church.



Lupe Aguilera, Administrative Assistant to Bishop Mark J. Seitz, and Deacon Fran Segura, Director of the Ministry of Marriage and Family life retire after many years of service to the Diocese of El Paso. *Photo by Daniel Cabrera*

## La Diócesis da Gran Despedida a Dos Miembros Del Equipo

Asistente Administrativa del Obispo Mark J. Seitz, se retiró de la Oficina del Obispo en septiembre después de 23 años de servicio. Deja un legado de servicio apasionado a la diócesis bajo dos obispos. Habiendo comenzado una carrera como secretaria en el campo legal, fue por sugerencia de su hijo, un graduado de la Escuela Secundaria de la Catedral, que Aguilera buscó oportunidades en la diócesis y vio una vacante para la secretaria del Obispo. Fue en ese momento cuando supo que Dios la había llamado a esta oportunidad.

De niña, asistió a la Escuela Católica Nuestra Señora del Valle y más tarde a la Escuela Secundaria Padre Yermo. Los va-

lores que adquirió en la escuela y sus padres, que eran activos en el ministerio, le proporcionaron una sólida base de fe. Aguilera dijo: “Recuerdo haber sido catequista a una edad muy temprana. Todos mis hermanos y hermanas estaban en el ministerio, así que doy crédito a mis padres por ese tipo de crianza, además de mi educación católica”.

Al recordar su servicio en la diócesis, Lupe dijo que su alegría estaba en la misión de la Iglesia. “El propósito principal es para los pobres y los otros que no son reconocidos”. Ella atribuye el trabajo en la oficina del obispo como lo que la inspiró a aprender más sobre su fe. En 2013, comenzó sus estudios para

obtener un máster en estudios pastorales y teología católica, lo que, según ella, le abrió un nuevo mundo y fortaleció aún más su amor por la Iglesia.

Emprendiendo su nuevo camino como cuidadora, está agradecida de haber estado al servicio de la comunidad de fieles de la diócesis.

El diácono Frank Segura encontró que su fe se profundizó mientras servía en la Marina durante la época de Vietnam. Durante este tiempo, supo que la gente rezaba el rosario por él mientras estaba en el extranjero.

Segura también encontró que su vida cambió debido a una invitación de boda inesperada por un amigo a su ciudad natal en El

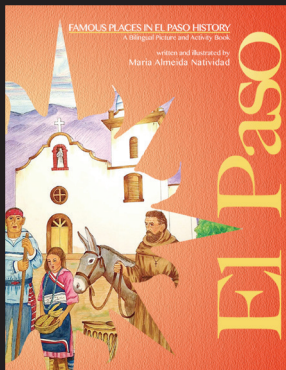
Paso, TX. Allí conoció a su futura esposa. Cinco años después de compartir los votos, Segura y su esposa asistieron a un Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial, que lo convenció de trabajar para la Iglesia. Afirma: “La llamada en el Encuentro Matrimonial fue para que fuéramos a nuestro párroco y le ofreciéramos nuestra ayuda”.

Fue ese largo camino de servicio al Señor en el ministerio y como matrimonio lo que le llevó a la llamada del Diaconado. Después de un compromiso familiar, Segura se convirtió en Diácono y más tarde en Director de Vida Matrimonial y Familiar. El Diácono Frank encontró la alegría de saber que su trabajo era parte del plan de Dios.

Además, afirma: “Él tiene un plan para todos, y cuando entramos por esa puerta, Jesucristo se abre ante nosotros y aumenta nuestro territorio y nos abre muchas más oportunidades.”

A pesar de no ser el Director de Vida Matrimonial y Familiar, el Diácono Frank continúa su ministerio como Diácono. Siempre está dispuesto a servir y confía en que Dios siempre proveerá.

Al dejar ambos sus puestos en la diócesis, expresaron su agradecimiento por servir en la Iglesia.



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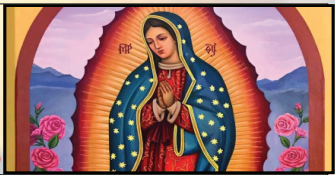
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# Diana Rascon Named Steward of the Year 2021

By Karina Sandoval  
Major Gifts Officer

The Catholic Foundation invited pastors, diocesan leaders and Catholic school principals to nominate an outstanding individual who they believed used their gifts and talents to their fullest potential, and generously helped those in great need, during the pandemic.

After 27 nominations from across the Diocese, the Stewardship Selection Committee gathered together and read one by one each nomination, and after a prayerful unbiased decision, and inspired by the sign of our times, Diana Rascon was chosen as the Steward of the Year 2021.

Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas, Pastor of St. Mark’s Catholic Church nominated Diana Rascon, a Youth and Young Adult Leader in the parish for her outstanding energy to serve the youth of El Paso, specially during these difficult times of a global pandemic.

“Diana is an outstanding youth leader in our parish. During the pandemic she managed to keep the youth group together via zoom gatherings. Many of the youth were experiencing difficult times of anxiety, fear and isolation. She responded to address

these concerns among the youth.

Throughout the year, Diana has been a leader in organizing youth gathering, dramas, retreats, social gatherings, and similar activities. She is well grounded in her Catholic faith and is very dedicated in helping youth grow in their faith and in their relationship with Christ. She is also a great community builder among the youth. We in the parish can always count on her dedication and service in our parish, especially with the youth. Our parish is blessed to have such an outstanding faith-filled youth leader.”

This pandemic brought a myriad of challenges, social isolation, loneliness and depression. According to Psychology Today, humans are fundamentally social, and perhaps never more so than in adolescence when hanging out with friends is the top priority for most teenagers. Diana combated social isolation and helped our youth feel loved and connected to one another through zoom meetings.

Diana, the Catholic Foundation rejoices with the meaningful work that you are doing, especially for our youth, thank you for helping to build the future of the Church! Congratulations!



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Because this pandemic brought a myriad of opportunities to serve, the Steward of the Year 2021 contest expanded to seven categories, please read below category winners.

## Steward of the Year 2021 Category Winners

**St. Toribio Romo**  
*Ministry of Refugees and Migrants*  
**Rafael Carrasco**  
*St. Mark’s Catholic Church*  
“Caring for migrants and their families has been a top priority for Rafael because he sees his calling as being a missionary of Christ to the most vulnerable...one time, we had no food for that day, a miscommunication, we were praying for a miracle, when Rafael arrived to help and found out about the situation, he returned with more food that we needed. This is the way he works.” -Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas, Pastor, St. Mark’s Catholic Church

**St. Teresa Benedict of the Cross**  
*Ministry of Bereavement*  
**Lupe Rodriguez de Gonzalez**  
*San Antonio de Padua Catholic Church*  
“Lupe developed a Memorial at the Parish of all the faithful departed who have died of Covid this year. Parishioners and their relatives were invited to give Lupe a list of names of the deceased in order for them to be written on ribbons that would hang from the “Covid Memorial Tree” until the end of the year of St. Joseph...she consistently makes time to listen to the pain and grief of the many senior citizens who had no one to talk to during the pandemic.” -Fr. Mariano Lopez, Pastor, San Antonio de Padua

**St. John of God**  
*Ministry of Health*  
**Pete Felix**  
*San Antonio de Padua Catholic Church*  
“Pete was asked for an estimate in order for his disinfecting company “Blue Life Environmental,” to sanitize the church after every mass when the churches opened at 25 percent capacity, he said he would not give an estimate

because he would do it for free and donate the supplies. Pete ensured that the workers of his company would attend the end of each service in order to disinfect the church, he did it over a year never charging San Antonio de Padua a penny...the workers who would sanitize the Church became part of the parish family.” -Fr. Mariano Lopez, Pastor, San Antonio de Padua Catholic Church

**St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)**  
*Ministry to the Poor*  
**Yuridia Perez**  
*El Buen Pastor Catholic Church*  
“During this pandemic, needy parishioners of El Buen Pastor were surprised to find on the footsteps of their home food baskets filled with milk, cereal, can goods, bread, soap, detergent, toilet paper, meat, toothpaste, napkins, cleaning supplies and water...for months they wondered who was doing this, until one day Fr. Fabian walked into his office and found Yuridia leaving bags of groceries and toiletries on his desk, he knew right there that the parishioner who every week was leaving food baskets in the door of needy parishioners, was her...Yuridia a single parent, who also cares for her mother, and who was in much need as everyone in the community was the one helping others in need.” -Fr. Fabian Marquez, former Pastor, El Buen Pastor Catholic Church.

**St. Juan Diego**  
*Ministry of Communication and Evangelization*  
**Santiago Romero**  
*All Saints Catholic Church*  
“Santiago is very active in ministry, he is a lector, usher, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, sacristan, Safe Environment Coordinator, and is the technology expert for the parish. His duties are numerous and it is not uncommon to see Santiago in each of the weekend masses.

Santiago goes out of his way to perform his duties in the ministries he is involved in. During the pandemic, when churches were closed, Santiago made it one of his responsibilities to begin livestreaming the mass. Initially he took his personal equipment to the church and learned to livestream the mass. Eventually, the parish purchased equipment to continue livestreaming and Santiago continues to livestream the mass.” -Paula Favela, Parish administrator, All Saints Catholic Church


**St. John Baptist of la Salle**  
*Ministry of Education and Religious Education*  
**Br. Mariano Lopez F.S.C., Religion Instructor**  
*Cathedral High School*

“Brother Mariano embodies the five Lasallian values that are engrained in every student on our campus. He models his faith daily on the campus and at all extra-curricular activities. Concern for the poor is modeled through his community service in our community. Respect for all is displayed daily to all faculty, staff, and student body. Quality education is delivered daily to all of his students...he is the model example of everything St. John Baptist de la Salle wanted his teachers to represent. Love, compassion, respect, and generosity. ” -Adolfo Sanchez, Principal, Cathedral High School

Congratulations Rafael, Lupe, Pete, Yuridia, Santiago, Br. Mariano, the Catholic Foundation prays for your faithful and serving hearts!

The Steward of the Year 2022 contest will be open for nominations in the Fall of 2022.


For more information about the Steward of the Year 2021 contest please contact Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator at [ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org](mailto:ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org), or at 915-872-8412.



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LIVING THE LITURGY

Ask The Saints For Their Intercession, But Also Imitate Their Life



Fr. Michael Lewis, STL

This month, as we approach the celebration of All Saints’ Day on November 1, it may be helpful to explore the “cult of the saints,” that is our devotion to and veneration of the men and women who, because they led holy and virtuous lives of ever-increasing union and conformity with Christ, are now believed to be with him in heaven. As members of the “cloud of witnesses,” they are united to the glory of God and with selfless charity, they act as advocates and protectors of the members of the

Church on earth, interceding for us with Christ and through him with the Father.

Beginning with the Blessed Virgin Mary and the first martyrs, the Church has consistently upheld the saints as worthy of imitation and veneration. Over the centuries, the Church declared some saints to be definitively in heaven, based on miracles that God performed through the saints’ heavenly intercession. These saints have been “canonized,” that is, added to the list of saints who can be publicly venerated, and we typically celebrate them liturgically on their *dies natalis*, or “heavenly birthday,” the day of their death. But the most basic definition of “saint” is simply someone in heaven, including, we pray, our non-canonized relatives who have gone before us.

Invoking the saints’ interces-

sion has become a popular form of prayer largely because the saints are often seen as more accessible, more like us, literally more down-to-earth. They wish to aid, protect, and intercede for us because they know our needs as fellow pilgrims and they continue to accompany us on our journey as heavenly friends. That’s why some have become patrons of specific groups of people in certain areas (St. Patrick in Ireland, for example), in certain occupations (St. Thomas More for lawyers), or in certain situations of life (St. Anne for mothers in childbirth, and St. Joseph for the dying).

But it’s important to distinguish between the worship due to God alone, and the veneration or honor given to saints. It is God alone who answers our prayers. The saints, on the other hand, are both exemplars of the Christian

life as well as powerful heavenly intercessors. Their greatness is entirely dependent on Christ and was evident in the way they extraordinarily and heroically exhibited Christian charity while alive on earth. Yet their generosity and love for their fellow Christians did not end with their death; rather, they continue with even greater fervor from heaven. Now united with Christ, their activity and work on behalf of other Christians has only intensified. As St. Dominic said on his deathbed, “Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death, and I shall help you then more effectively than during my life.”

Therefore, invoking the saints’ intercession does not lessen our love or devotion to God. Rather, it enriches it, since the communion of saints are united to Christ in heaven and we are united to

the communion of saints through Christ. However, we may focus so much on asking the saints for their assistance that we forget to imitate their model Christian way of life. As the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* explains, “The authentic cult of the saints does not consist so much in a multiplicity of external acts, but rather in a more intense practice of our love, whereby, for our own greater good and that of the Church, we seek from the saints ‘example in their way of life, fellowship in their communion, and the help of their intercession.’”

To paraphrase a prayer from the Mass, may the saints’ great example give us courage, and may their fervent prayers sustain us in all we do.

Pide A Los Santos Su Intercesión, Pero También Imita Su Vida

Este mes, al acercarnos a la celebración del Día de Todos los Santos, el 1 de noviembre, puede ser útil explorar el “culto a los santos”, es decir, nuestra devoción y veneración a los hombres y mujeres que, por haber llevado una vida santa y virtuosa de creciente unión y conformidad con Cristo, se cree que ahora están con él en el cielo. Como miembros de la “nube de testigos”, están unidos a la gloria de Dios y, con caridad desinteresada, actúan como abogados y protectores de los miembros de la Iglesia en la tierra, intercediendo por nosotros ante Cristo y, a través de él, ante el Padre.

Comenzando por la Santísima Virgen María y los primeros mártires, la Iglesia ha promovido constantemente a los santos como dignos de imitación y veneración. A lo largo de los si-

glos, la Iglesia ha declarado que algunos santos están definitivamente en el cielo, basándose en los milagros que Dios realizó a través de la intercesión celestial de los santos. Estos santos han sido “canonizados”, es decir, añadidos a la lista de santos que pueden ser venerados públicamente, y normalmente los celebramos litúrgicamente en su *dies natalis*, o “cumpleaños celestial”, el día de su muerte. Pero la definición más básica de “santo” es simplemente alguien que está en el cielo, incluidos, rezamos, nuestros parientes no canonizados que nos han precedido.

Invocar la intercesión de los santos se ha convertido en una forma popular de oración, en gran medida porque los santos suelen ser vistos como más accesibles, más parecidos a nosotros, más cercanos a nuestra

realidad. Desean ayudarnos, protegernos e interceder por nosotros porque conocen nuestras necesidades como compañeros de peregrinación y siguen acompañándonos en nuestro camino como amigos celestiales. Por eso algunos se han convertido en patronos de grupos específicos de personas en determinadas zonas (San Patricio en Irlanda, por ejemplo), en determinadas ocupaciones (Santo Tomás Moro para los abogados), o en determinadas situaciones de la vida (Santa Ana para las madres que dan a luz, y San José para los moribundos).

Pero es importante distinguir entre el culto que se debe a Dios y la veneración u honor que se da a los santos. Sólo Dios responde a nuestras oraciones. Los santos, en cambio, son tanto ejemplos de vida cristiana como poderosos

intercesores celestiales. Su grandeza depende enteramente de Cristo y se puso de manifiesto en el modo en que exhibieron extraordinaria y heroicamente la caridad cristiana mientras vivían en la tierra. Sin embargo, su generosidad y su amor por sus compañeros cristianos no terminaron con su muerte, sino que continúan con un fervor aún mayor desde el cielo. Ahora, unidos a Cristo, su actividad y trabajo en favor de los demás cristianos no ha hecho más que intensificarse. Como dijo Santo Domingo en su lecho de muerte: “No llores, porque te seré más útil después de mi muerte, y te ayudaré entonces más eficazmente que durante mi vida”.

Por tanto, invocar la intercesión de los santos no disminuye nuestro amor o devoción a Dios. Al contrario, la

enriquece, ya que la comunión de los santos está unida a Cristo en el cielo y nosotros estamos unidos a la comunión de los santos por medio de Cristo. Sin embargo, podemos centrarnos tanto en pedir la ayuda de los santos que nos olvidamos de imitar su modelo de vida cristiana. Como explica la *Constitución dogmática sobre la Iglesia*, “el verdadero culto a los santos no consiste tanto en la multiplicidad de actos exteriores cuanto en la intensidad de un amor activo, por el cual, para mayor bien nuestro y de la Iglesia, buscamos en los santos ‘el ejemplo de su vida, la participación de su intimidad y la ayuda de su intercesión’”.

Parafraseando una oración de la Misa, que el gran ejemplo de los santos nos dé valor, y que sus fervientes oraciones nos sostengan en todo lo que hagamos.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

Fr. Ronald Sibugan, AA	10/6
Fr. Joe Molina	10/9
Fr. Frank R. Lopez	10/10
Fr. Pablo Matta	10/15
Fr. Mark N.P. Salas	10/16
Fr. Miguel Briseno, OFM Conv.	10/23
Fr. Robert Edward Mosher, SSC	10/30

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Fr. Felipe Mariscal Chavez, OSM	10/12/1972
Fr. Faustino Ortiz-Suarez, MNM	10/7/2006

RETIRED PRIESTS BIRTHDAY

Fr. Raul Trigueros	10/5
Fr. Robert S. Kobe	10/13
Fr. Richard Waiwood	10/16



Diocese offers assistance for victims of sexual abuse

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

La diócesis ofrece asistencia a las víctimas de abusos sexuales

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



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# Wash Away The Mud



## Janet M. Crowe

I just don’t understand,” grumbled Susana to her mother.

“Okay, bear with me on this,” reassured Mom. “Sometimes, you have to examine the mud closely before you can understand how to wash it away and clearly see what is hidden underneath.”

Susana looked even more confused, but her mother patted her hand before continuing.

“Let’s look at a few situations,” Mom said. “Imagine two boys are taking a test. They’re both smart, and both have studied for the test. However, the teacher notices that when Sam picks up a pencil that dropped, he looks at Joe’s paper before sitting back down and writing down his answer. She continues to monitor the classroom and again feels that Sam looks at Joe’s paper as Sam returns from a bathroom visit. Of course, she is upset but can’t prove anything. When she confronts the boys, Joe is completely unaware that anything has happened. Sam, also, claims not to have done anything wrong. Sam insists that he has not taken any of Joe’s answers. After all, doesn’t Joe still have all of his answers on the paper? If Sam has taken an answer from Joe’s paper, it would be stealing and Joe wouldn’t have the answer on his paper anymore.”

“That’s not how cheating works,” laughed Susana. “The answers were not Sam’s to take.”

“True. However, just hold on to that rather murky scenario and let’s look at another one,” said Mom. “Imagine there is some type of danger in which two people are trapped. Maybe a fire in a burning building with a very narrow escape path, or a sinking ship with only enough room in the lifeboat for one person, or an airplane in imminent danger of crashing but only one parachute. Got the picture?”

Susana nodded her head but wrinkled her forehead.

“There are two clear alternatives,” said Mom. “The first one involves great sacrifice. One of the people in danger tells the other person to leave quickly before the fire engulfs them both, or to row the lifeboat away before the ship pulls them both under, or to take the only parachute and jump to safety while the other one goes down with the plane. Of course, it is very sad but the one has offered to sacrifice his or her life in order that the other one may live.”

Susana started to respond, but Mom continued, “In the second alternative, one of the people in danger pushes the second person farther back from the only exit and rushes out of the burning building, or jumps into the lifeboat and quickly rows away, or grabs the parachute and waves good-bye to the other person still left on the airplane while floating to safety before the plane’s fiery crash.”

“That would be murder,” Susana interrupted.

“Why?” asked Mom. “The result is the same – one person dies, the other has a chance to make it to safety. Both stories have the same sad endings.”

“No,” Susana argued, “the end result may be that one person lives and one person dies but in the first story, the person offered to sacrifice

his or her own life, not the life of another person. You cannot say that your life is more valuable than someone else’s and say you are worthy to live while the other is left to die. That’s not a sacrifice, that’s murder.”

“True,” Mom agreed, “the sacrifice is forced upon the person left to die rather than that person freely offering to give up their life for the other.”

“I hate situation ethics,” complained Susana, “because real life is never an either/or situation. There are always more than two choices. Why must one die and one live? Why can’t they both make it out of the danger alive? Sure, in helping each other out of the burning building, maybe both will get badly burned but they might both live. Why can’t they crowd one more person into the lifeboat? Why can’t they hold onto each other and strap themselves together into the parachute? The weight might be too much and they might break a leg, or even both of them might die, but they tried to help each other rather than saying I want to live my life and am willing to give up yours but not mine. There are more alternatives, Mom, than just the two you offered. Life is not either/or. They could help each other or even call for help and maybe be saved before the plane crashed or whatever.”

“Smart girl,” said Mom proudly. “Now you are washing away the mud that obscures the true solutions. But before we explore what’s underneath the mud, let’s examine that mud just a little more first.”

Susana sighed.

“Many years ago, domestic violence was ignored,” Mom said. “For example, if a man got upset with his wife or children and disciplined or punished them more

extremely than was healthy, it was a private issue and nobody else’s business. People shook their heads and felt sorry for the family, but nothing was done. A man’s home was his castle and no one else could tell him what to do inside of it. It’s my family, keep your nose out of my business, so to speak.”

“That’s barbaric,” grumbled Susana.

“Don’t you see the parallels?” asked Mom. “Abortion rhetoric pushes the same slogans: ‘It’s my body, keep your hands off my uterus.’ ‘It’s my body, my choice.’ Ignoring the domestic violence in the past is the same as accepting today’s deceptive rhetoric, we are allowing mud to obscure the truth. Those who profit from abortion are just like the abuser of the past. They are muddying people’s minds with lies and deception, putting greed and monetary gain from abortion over the health and welfare of those living within that ‘castle’ or the woman’s body. If you think they care about the pregnant woman who feels she is drowning without a lifeboat to save her, ask the abortion clinic if they will help her obtain prenatal care, diapers, or moral support if she chooses to not to let them kill her baby. They usually won’t even refund the money she has paid for the abortion she has chosen not to endure. On the other hand, pro-life centers regularly help pregnant women with whatever resources they need so that both mothers and their babies may continue living. Pro-life centers also support and help post-abortive women receive counseling and whatever assistance they may need. Non-judgmental support so that both people – mother and child – can go on to live their lives because there are always at least two people affected in a

decision regarding abortion.”

“Okay, I get it,” Susana said, “but what about the boy cheating on the test? How does he figure into this discussion?”

Pro-choice arguments are the same as little Sam’s muddy logic that his cheating was not hurting anyone. Sam confuses everyone by throwing out muddy nonsensical statements and continues to repeat them until some people agree that he is right. They fail to see the issue beneath the mud he is smearing on the truth,” said Mom. “We must clear away the mud to see the real issue that there are two lives affected in any abortion – one will be injured and one will be murdered. No one has the right to take away the life of the living child within her; it is not their life to take. Every excuse to have an abortion falls apart if we can clearly show the truth that a child will die in every abortion situation. Instead of throwing muddy slogans to distort the truth, let’s address the real issue of trying to save both lives by helping the mother with what she really needs – prenatal care, financial assistance, moral support, or whatever she needs to rescue both herself and her precious child from danger.”

“It’s a child, not a choice,” said Susana. “I get it. I just wish we could concentrate on helping both mother and child instead of responding to the anger and name-calling they keep throwing at us.”

“It’s not easy to wash away mud when people keep throwing more at you,” reassured Mom, “but every life you save is worth it.”

Susana smiled, “In this case, you get a two-for-one savings with every decision not to abort.”

## Decisions of Consequence



## Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

I recently watched a compelling video prepared by a group called “Heartbeat International.” They provide women, who regret having taken an abortion pill, the chance to reverse their decision through a treatment involving progesterone. The protocol, though not yet officially “peer-reviewed,” appears to work well if the woman doesn’t wait too long, and the video includes pictures and rescue dates of many beautiful babies who have been saved this way.

What also caught my attention were the stories of several nurses working at Heartbeat International.

“I wanted to help out in a meaningful way,” one of them, named Amanda, said. “I was very excited

to hear about abortion-pill reversal for the first time. . . . I thought: God just brought that in front of me, and I think that’s what I’m meant to do.”

She went on to share a follow-up from two mothers whom she had recently assisted.

“They sent me pictures on WhatsApp after they had their babies. . . . I’m so thankful for their courage and their bravery. They talked about how much they love their babies and I’m just so happy for them. I’m just so grateful God gave me that opportunity to speak with both of them.

I’ve never had this kind of fulfillment in any previous nursing job that I’ve had — that feeling of Yes! — I’m making a difference in someone’s life, . . . a difference in eternity.”

Every child saved this way is someone who now enjoys the opportunity to grow up, go to school, get married, have kids, grandkids and great-grandkids. It clearly makes an incalculable difference for that child, as well as for untold others. An “eternal difference.”

Each of us would like for our lives and our work to “make a difference,” and especially to make

a lasting, impactful, and eternal difference.

It should come as no small consolation to understand that whenever we make deliberate moral choices for the good or turn away from what is wrong, we are already starting to make those “eternal differences.” Through such decisions of consequence, we align our own will with God’s, and contribute, in his wisdom, to rectifying the many patterns of sin around and within us. Such decisions enable us to collaborate with his all-encompassing redemptive plan.

In the field of bioethics, these “decisions of consequence” arise with great regularity. When one of our ethicists at The National Catholic Bioethics Center, for example, helps a husband and wife to understand the moral problems surrounding in vitro fertilization, not only can this help them avoid the tragedy of trapping their young offspring in “frozen orphanages,” but it can also help them reflect on deeper questions like, “What does our infertility really mean?” and, “How does God want us to be fruitful?” This can lead them to consider new paths of grace, like reaching out to kids in the commu-

nity who are parentless, through mentoring programs such as Big Brother/Big Sister, or through pursuing the generous path of foster parenting and adoption. Such generosity is another “decision of consequence” where we stand to make an eternal difference.

Our “decisions of consequence” need not be great or lofty gestures; they can be quite simple. I recall a true story first relayed by John W. Schlatter in 1993, that has circulated widely since.

Bill was walking home after his junior high school classes, his arms full of books and other items from his locker. At a certain point, everything spilled out of his arms, and another boy named Mark witnessed it and came over to help him pick it up off the ground, making some friendly small talk. The two of them decided to spend part of the afternoon together, playing games and goofing off. In succeeding weeks and months, they became friends.

Years later, Bill was reminiscing with Mark, and he brought up the day they first met.

“Did you ever wonder why I was carrying so many things home that day?” he asked. “I cleaned out

my locker because I didn’t want to leave a mess for anyone else. I had stored away some of my mother’s sleeping pills and I was going home to commit suicide. But after we spent some time together talking and laughing, I realized that if I had killed myself, I would have missed that time and so many others that might follow. So Mark, when you picked up those books that day, you did a lot more: you saved my life.”

In a sense, each day for us involves a walk along the threshold of eternity, through small and not-so-small gestures, even though we may not always see the full implications of each of our decisions. Each day we have a chance to make beautiful, potentially life-saving and indeed eternal “decisions of consequence.”

*Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org) and [www.fathertad.com](http://www.fathertad.com).*





Padre Wilson Cuevas

Un Sábado como a las 9:30 pm. cuando iba entrando a la casa donde vivo, después de una Misa con los hermanos del Camino Catecumenal, cuando recibí una llamada a mi teléfono personal, era una señora que con lagrimas y suspiros de angustia me suplicaba que fuera pronto al hospital porque su mama se estaba muriendo, está en la sección de urgencias, había un letrero: “Sala de Urgencias” allí tenían a la mama de esta señora y cuando entre allí, resulto que la enfermera era una mujer joven que hacía unos dos años yo había estado en la celebración de su matrimonio y me hablo de los “milagros” que en esa sala se operaban, gracias al esfuerzo de los médicos y enfermeras y a los avances de la ciencia médica. Desde entonces me gusta aplicar el sentido de esas palabras.

Acaso no necesitamos en muchas partes milagros de reanimación? Si, hacen falta salas de reanimación en las casas, en las empresas, en los centros educativos, en las iglesias, en las calles o en el campo... Necesitamos luces de esperanza y fuertes dosis de optimismo en las palabras, en las acciones, en las miradas en los gestos. Ese es quizás el regalo que mas ansían hoy los seres humanos: Un amor que brinda confianza, energía positiva y ganas de vivir.!

El mundo hoy es como una

amplia sección de urgencias en la que tu y yo podemos DAR MUCHO AMOR, ANIMO Y ALEGRÍA; PODEMOS DAR VIDA. Así extendemos la Misión de Jesús, que se definió como un “dador de vida” (S. Juan 10,10), búscalos, llámalo, dile: JESÚS YO CONFÍO EN TI, y experimentarás su poder de transformarlo todo. Cuando Jesús entre a las aguas del Rio Jordán lo transformo en fuente del Bautismo, en Cana de Galilea, cambio el agua en vino; en la Ultima Cena, cambio el Pan en su Cuerpo y el Vino en su Sangre y en Monte Calvario, transformo la Muerte en Vida. A muchos hombres y mujeres aburridos, confundidos o extraviados los convirtió en apóstoles, en Santos y en hombres y mujeres capaces de hacer el bien con amor, alegría y generosidad.

Lo que distingue al instante a una persona aburrida de una persona diligente y laboriosa es una fuerza interior llamada ENTUSIASMO. Fue con esa energía divina con la que Bethoven supero su sordera y Bach la ceguera al final de su vida. Fue con esa motivación constante como el hombre conquisto el Everet, llego a los polos, arribo a la luna. Fue con ese optimismo cotidiano como los hermanos Wright realizaron el primer vuelo en avión, después de muchos fracasos y actualmente se comienza el turismo espacial. Cada invento o cada logro en la vida humana son frutos de un trabajo de persistente realizado con entusiasmo, es decir con fuerza interior.

Todos necesitamos entusiasmo porque hay etapas de la vida difíciles y no siempre es fácil afrontar las crisis y convertir 10 o 20 rechazos en un SI, como lo



lograron los buenos vendedores. Por lo mismo nos conviene cultivar la fe, orar, avivar el amor familiar y cultivar la amistad. Solo Dios nos llena de energía positiva porque El es la fuente de la vida, del amor y de la alegría. Y con un amor lleno de fe y esperanza hacemos de la adversidad una oportunidad.

Ojala nos llegue al corazón este testimonio de la Madre Teresa de Calcuta: “Nunca olvidare a un niño hindú, que me enseñó a amar a lo grande en una época en la que no había azúcar en Calcuta. Este niño hindú de cuatro años de edad, escucho no sé donde que la Madre Teresa no tenia azúcar para sus pobres. Entonces fue a su casa y les dijo a sus padres. “No comeré azúcar esta semana. Voy a dar esa azúcar a la Madre Teresa.

Después de una semana los padres trajeron al niño a nues-

tra casa. En su mano traía un pequeño frasco con azúcar que no había comido. El pequeño apenas podía pronunciar mi nombre, pero sabía lo que era amar de verdad, porque amo hasta el dolor. Le dolió privarse durante una semana de algo que tanto le gustaba. Ese niño ya sabía que el amor exige renuncia. Ese niño nos enseña a amar a lo grande y a recordar que no importa cuánto damos sino cuanto amor ponemos en lo que damos. En el amor lo que cuenta no es la cantidad sino la generosidad.

Todos tenemos siempre algo que ofrecer! nuestro estado de ánimo depende del estado de nuestra alma. Un alma grande y un alma serena te impulsan a no decaer y a no hundirte sin remedio en el lodo del desaliento o las dificultades. Un alma llena de Dios es un alma llena de amor y de luz, capaz de soportar los

combates de la vida. De ahí la importancia que tiene el cuidado de nuestro espíritu al que poco le dedicamos tiempo e interés. Los seres humanos andan afanados hoy con la belleza corporal, con los cosméticos y sus dietas y sería mejor si se complementara con una intensa búsqueda espiritual y gimnasia diaria para el alma. Ojala decidas darle a tu alma los mismos cuidado que a tu cuerpo. Así andaríamos siempre de buen ánimo, llenos de paz interior y con grandes posibilidades de hacer obras buenas. Animo! Saca tiempo para orar, leer la Biblia, meditar, practicar tu fe y tu caridad, cuida tu alma y aprende a vivir. Recuerda que las pequeñas victorias de cada día te llevan al éxito en tu vida. Insiste en hacer el bien en cada oportunidad de cada día, porque vivir es un milagro a pesar de los problemas. Animo.

# Reanimation Room

On a Saturday around 9:30 pm. when I was entering the house where I live, after celebrating a Mass with the brothers of the Catechumenal Way, I received a call on my personal phone; it was a lady who with tears and sighs of anguish begged me to go to the hospital quickly because her mother was dying. In the emergency area of the hospital there was a sign: “Emergency Room”. It was there that they had the mother of this lady, and when I walked in, it turned out that the nurse was a young woman whom I, about two years before, had been the celebrant at her wedding. She told me about the “miracles” that happened in that room, thanks to the efforts of the doctors and nurses and the advances of medical science. Since then I like to apply the meaning of those words.

Don’t we need miracles of resuscitation in many places? Yes, there are necessary resuscitation rooms in homes, in companies, in educational centers, in churches, in the streets and in the field ... We need lights of hope and strong doses of - optimism in words, in actions, in looks, in gestures. That is maybe the gift

that human beings crave most today: a love that gives confidence, -positive energy and a will to live.!

The world today is like a wide section of emergencies in which you and I can GIVE LOTS OF LOVE, ENCOURAGEMENT AND JOY; WE CAN GIVE LIFE. This is how we extend the Mission of Jesus, who was defined as a “giver of life” (John 10:10 ); seek him out, call him, tell him: JESUS I TRUST IN YOU, and you will experience his power to transform everything. When Jesus entered the waters of the Jordan River, he transformed it into a source of Baptism, in Cana of Galilee, He changed the water into wine; at the Last Supper, he converted the Bread into his Body and the Wine into his Blood, and on Mount Calvary, he transformed Death into Life. Many men and women who were bored, confused and lost were turned into apostles and saints and into men and women capable of doing good with love, joy and generosity.

What instantly distinguishes a boring person from a diligent and industrious person is an inner

force called ENTHUSIASM. It was with that divine energy that Beethoven overcame his deafness and Bach the blindness at the end of his life. It was with that constant motivation that man conquered Everest, reached the Poles, arrived at the moon. It was with that daily optimism that the Wright brothers made the first flight in an airplane, and at present, after many failures space tourism is currently beginning. Each invention, every achievement in human life is the fruit of persistent work carried out with enthusiasm, that is to say with inner strength.

We all need enthusiasm because there are difficult stages in life that are not always easy to face, and perhaps turn 10 or 20 rejections into a YES, as good salespersons do. For the same reason, it is to our advantage to cultivate faith, pray, enliven family love, and cultivate friendships. Only God fills us with positive energy because He is the source of life, love and joy. And with a love full of faith and hope we can transform adversity into opportunity.

Hopefully this testimony of Mother Teresa of Calcutta may

reach our hearts: “I will never forget a Hindu child who taught me to love in a big way during a time when there was no sugar in Calcutta. This four-year-old Hindu boy heard, I don’t know where, that Mother Teresa had no sugar for her poor. Then he went home and told his parents. “”I will not eat sugar this week. I’m going to give that sugar to Mother Teresa.”

After a week the parents brought the child to our house. In his hand he carried a small jar with the sugar that he had not eaten. The little boy could hardly pronounce my name, but he knew what it meant to really love, because he loved even if it hurt. It hurt him to deprive himself for a week of something he loved so much. That boy already knew that love sometimes demands self-denial. That child teaches us to love big and remember that it does not matter how much we give but how much love we put into what we give. In love what counts is not the quantity but the generosity.

All of us always have something to offer! Our level of enthusiasm depends on the level of enthusiasm in our soul. A great

soul and a serene soul impels us not to weaken and not to sink hopelessly into a mire of discouragement amid difficulties. A soul full of God is a soul full of love and light, capable of withstanding the onslaughts of life. Hence the importance of caring for our spirit on which we spend little time and interest. Today many people are busy worrying about their outward beauty... buying cosmetics and going on diets to improve their looks.

It would be better if it were complemented with an intense spiritual search and daily gymnastics for the soul. I hope you decide to give your soul the same care as you do to your body. Thus we would always walk in good spirits, full of inner peace and with great possibilities for doing good works. Have courage! Take time to pray, read the Bible, meditate, practice your faith and your charity, Take care of your soul and learn to live. Remember that the small victories of each day will bring even bigger success in your life. Insist on doing good in every opportunity of every day, because living is a miracle despite the problems. Let us embrace life!!



# Tigua Native American Ministry Helps to Preserve Heritage

By Progress Office  
Catholic Foundation Office

“The Holy Land is everywhere,” say the elders of the Tigua Indians of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo of El Paso. And for Mike Lara, Director of the Tigua Native American Ministry for the Diocese of El Paso, it is an expression that fuels the philosophy of his work. The ministry helps to preserve the presence and identify of the people of Ysleta del Sur while respecting their diversity. The ministry aims to foster continued spiritual growth and formation, while empowering them to live in harmony with both their Catholic and Native spirituality.” The ministry is supported by the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal.

“The tie to the culture is core to what we do in this ministry – and for the members, it is very tied to respect for the earth and the environment,” said Lara. “The people of the Ysleta del Sur still have a cultural identity that is so important to them. They dance. They incorporate their traditions. The earth is sacred, and the earth is a gift.”

The ministry serves 2,800 individuals each year through programs such as homebound visits (prior to the public health crisis), monthly formation opportunities to children, bereavement support, acquisition of bultos/retablos (traditional images of saints made in the Spanish style), cultural events such as the Blessing of the Water, religious and feast days, workshops and



The Tigua Native American Ministry helps to preserve the presence and identify of the people of Ysleta del Sur while respecting their diversity. The ministry aims to foster continued spiritual growth and formation, while empowering them to live in harmony with both their Catholic and Native spirituality. *Photo by Al Baeza, Special to the Rio Grande Catholic.*

conferences, holiday initiatives, educational talks, traditional dancing and more. Celebration of the Feast Days of saints like Santo Niño de Atocha and Saint Francis are important days in the calendar.

The goal, said Lara, is to create a sense that their members can practice both their culture and their religion seamlessly.

Events like the Dia de San Santiago and Dia de Santa Ana and the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Feast Day, which are followed by native dances at the Mission,

help honor the culture of the members. Among the ministry’s goals is to create or bring back traditions, such as the Feast Day of Saint Isidore the Farmer which will be celebrated in the traditional way of blessing the fields.

“We are looking to revive those old traditions,” said Lara. “One of the things we’ve seen is that if you stop doing a tradition once, it becomes difficult to bring it back. So for the next generation, if we don’t start reviving, those traditions will be

lost. We have to enculturate the younger generations so that they see the young adults dancing – which will be part of the narrative they will eventually take responsibility for. We have to charge them and empower them to lead.”

That change can sometimes feel foreign to people outside of the ministry, acknowledged Lara, but he feels strongly that by learning more about the culture of the people of Ysleta del Sur that it will create a stronger community for all.

“Sometimes there is a misconception that because we don’t pray exactly the same way that we aren’t brothers and sisters,” he said. “But the people of the ministry adhere to their traditional ways and blend them with Catholic practices. I have met people on the reservation that can’t read or write, but they can pray. They have memorized those prayers. So support of the ministry provides an opportunity to move beyond cultural stereotypes. Culture big part of who they are – as it is for all of us.”

## El Ministerio de los Nativos Americanos de Tigua ayuda a conservar el patrimonio

Por la Oficina de Progreso  
Oficina de la Fundación Católica

“La Tierra Santa está en todas partes”, dicen los ancianos de los indios Tigua del Pueblo Ysleta del Sur de El Paso.

Y para Mike Lara, Director del Ministerio de los Nativos Americanos Tigua de la Diócesis de El Paso, es una expresión que alimenta la filosofía de su trabajo. El ministerio ayuda a preservar la presencia y la identidad del pueblo de Ysleta del Sur respetando su diversidad. El ministerio tiene como objetivo fomentar el crecimiento y la formación espiritual continua, al tiempo que los capacita para vivir en armonía con su espiritualidad católica y nativa.” El ministerio es apoyado por el Progreso: Catholic Ministry Appeal.

“El vínculo con la cultura es fundamental para lo que hacemos en este ministerio, y para los miembros, está muy ligado al respeto por la tierra y el medio ambiente”, dijo Lara. “La gente de Ysleta del Sur sigue teniendo una identidad cultural que es muy importante para ellos. Bailan. Incorporan sus tradiciones. La tierra es sagrada, y la tierra es un regalo”.

El ministerio atiende a 2.800 personas cada año a través de programas como las visitas a domicilio (antes de la crisis de salud pública), oportunidades de

formación mensual a los niños, apoyo al duelo, adquisición de bultos/retablos (imágenes tradicionales de santos hechas al estilo español), eventos culturales como la Bendición del Agua, días religiosos y festivos, talleres y conferencias, iniciativas festivas, charlas educativas, bailes tradicionales y mucho más. La celebración de las fiestas de santos como el Santo Niño de Atocha y San Francisco son días importantes en el calendario.

El objetivo, dice Lara, es crear la sensación de que sus miembros pueden practicar tanto su cultura como su religión sin problemas.


Eventos como el Día de San Santiago y el Día de Santa Ana y la fiesta de Santa Kateri Tekakwitha, que van seguidos de bailes nativos en la Misión, ayudan a honrar la cultura de los miembros. Uno de los objetivos del ministerio es crear o recuperar tradiciones, como la fiesta de San Isidro Labrador, que se celebrará a la manera tradicional de bendecir los campos.

“Buscamos revivir esas antiguas tradiciones”, dijo Lara. “Una de las cosas que hemos visto es que si dejas de hacer una tradición una vez, resulta difícil recuperarla. Así que para la próxima

generación, si no empezamos a revivir, esas tradiciones se perderán. Tenemos que culturizar a las generaciones más jóvenes para que vean bailar a los jóvenes adultos, lo que formará parte de la narrativa de la que acabarán responsabilizándose. Tenemos que cargarlos y empoderarlos para que lideren”.

Ese cambio a veces puede resultar extraño para las personas ajenas al ministerio, reconoció Lara, pero está convencido de que aprender más sobre la cultura del pueblo de Ysleta del Sur creará una comunidad más fuerte para todos.

“A veces existe la idea errónea de que, porque no rezamos exactamente igual, no somos hermanos y hermanas”, dijo. “Pero la gente del ministerio se adhiere a sus formas tradicionales y las mezcla con las prácticas católicas. He conocido a personas en la reserva que no saben leer ni escribir, pero saben rezar. Han memorizado esas oraciones. Así que el apoyo al ministerio ofrece la oportunidad de ir más allá de los estereotipos culturales. La cultura es una parte importante de lo que son, como lo es para todos nosotros”.



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# Catholic Foundation Ignites Hearts with 15th Annual Foundation of Faith

By Sofia Larkin  
Major Gifts Officer

The Catholic Foundation’s 15th Annual Foundation of Faith Event: Ignite Your Hearts featuring three special guests, an in-person VIP event at The Manor at Ten Eleven, an online auction, and the chance to watch the event virtually from home, raised \$93,000.

The event that typically hosts 1,000 people went virtual last year because of the pandemic. Guests at the intimate outdoor event expressed how happy they were to come together to celebrate faith, community, and connection.

Eduardo Verástegui gave an impassioned live talk from Mexico City, and Sarah Hart delivered a moving mini-concert from Nashville. Both artists joined via Zoom. Mark Hart delivered his dynamic keynote directly from the venue.

Bishop Mark Seitz accepted the Dei Gratia Award on behalf of the Diocese of El Paso Clergy and Religious. Dei Gratia is Latin for “By the Grace of God”. It is with God’s grace that our recipients continue to guide and inspire us.

Award winning journalist and KTSM 9 Anchor Natassia Paloma served as a gracious and elegant Mistress of Ceremonies.

The online auction included jewelry, artwork, and experi-

ences like dinner with Fr. Beto Lopez at Thyme Matters, and an exquisitely prepared meal by Fr. Marcus McFadin benefiting the St. Patrick Cathedral Historic Preservation Fund. Donors also contributed to provide gas money for priests who drive hundreds of miles across West Texas to serve, and scholarships for students attending St. Joseph’s School. If you did not have a chance to give, please contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin directly at (915) 433-2003 or slarkin@catholicfoundationelpaso.org.

Nora and Ernie Herrera hosted a beautiful evening for sponsors and special guests at The Manor at Ten Eleven, a historic Trost mansion-turned venue that is a private membership club unique to El Paso. The Manor, located catty corner from St. Patrick Cathedral, is also available to the general public as a rental space for weddings, business meetings and a host of events. The Manor offers experiences you only used to have access to if you traveled, and is committed to continuing to bring the community together through philanthropic events, culinary experiences, the arts, wine and tequila tastings, expert health and wellness sessions, mixers, concerts, and more.

In honor of the Catholic Foundation’s 20th anniversary, the community was invited to give a “Gift of 20”. We received gifts from \$20 to \$20,000 in the



The Catholic Foundation’s 15th Annual Foundation of Faith Event: Ignite Your Hearts featuring three special guests, an in-person VIP event at The Manor at Ten Eleven, an online auction, and the chance to watch the event virtually from home, raised \$93,000. *Photo by Alejandra Saldaña*

categories of Prayer Warrior, Servants of God, and Saints. Some very special people contributed \$20,000 to their favorite endowed funds.

The Catholic Foundation extends its heartfelt thanks to our “Saints” for their generous “Gifts of 20” in celebration of twenty years of prayer, service, and giving. Thank you to Connie Perez, and Clara & Mike Miles for your continued support and for your “Gift of 20”.

We give special thanks to our hosts, sponsors, guests, and donors. Without your support and generosity, this event would not have been possible. Our gratitude to committee chair, Melissa Martinez, and to committee members, Boris Salazar, Cecilia Mesta, Machel Vanecek, and Veronica Cervantes for their hard work and prayers to ensure another inspired Foundation of Faith Event. Thank you to everyone who generously helped us

make this event a success. You can watch the 15th Annual Foundation of Faith Event on the Catholic Foundation’s YouTube page. Mark your calendar for the 16th Annual Foundation of Faith Event on September 22, 2022. *For more information, please contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at slarkin@catholicfoundationelpaso.org or 915.433.2003.*

## Final Wave Of Parishes To Launch The Capital Campaign

By Tina Edwards-Milam  
Pledge Fulfillment Specialist

The third and final wave of the Capital Campaign, We Are The Body of Christ, launches in September 2021, and the campaign is on track to meet its \$18 million goal.

“Our diocese is blessed with our generous and faithful community who have embraced this campaign as an opportunity to strengthen our church for future

generations,” said Bishop Mark Seitz. “I am personally grateful for parishioner’s many sacrifices to ensure the success of The We Are The Body of Christ campaign.”

He added, “To continue to have a strong diocese, we must create strong parishes where priests and faithful work together to create a community of Faith. Together, we will continue to ensure the future of our Catholic Faith.”

More than 4,000 families from

parishes throughout the diocese have contributed over \$10 million to the campaign, 60% percent of the goal — since Bishop Seitz launched the Capital Campaign in 2019 to fulfill many of the purposes of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

We are joined, in this historic endeavor, by our partners at CCS Fundraising, a strategic fundraising consulting firm that partners with nonprofits for transformational change. “We are honored

to work hand-in-hand with the faithful to further the impact of the church and Catholic community in El Paso”, says Christie Rodriguez, CCS Senior Director. “CCS is excited to work alongside Bishop Seitz and invites all families to learn more and join us in this extraordinary effort”.

Your sacrificial gift enables Seminararian and Deaconate Formation, Catholic and Religious Formation, the ability to strengthen our parishes, and Parish Emer-

gency Assistance. Once again, we genuinely appreciate the generosity of our parishioners to the Capital Campaign, ensuring the future of our Catholic Faith. Prayerfully consider donating, or for more information, go to [www.bodyofchristcampaign.com](http://www.bodyofchristcampaign.com) or call (915) 872-8412, Ext 137.

### Special Collection for Retirement Fund for Priests

This is reminder of the Special Offering to be held on Saturday, October 16 and Sunday, October 17, 2021 for the Retirement Fund for Priests.

The Clergy Retirement Program provides financial support to those members of the clergy who are over age 65. The Diocese of El Paso faces three challenges with respect to its diocesan clergy. First, we must insure the recruitment and training of new clergy to meet the future needs of the Church. Second, we must provide for our clergy in need of assistance during emergencies, such as medical crises. Third, we must provide for the retirement of our priests, particularly for the very aged with special needs.

Thank you for your support.

### La Ofrenda Especial para el Fondo de la Jubilación de Sacerdotes

Este es un recordatorio de la Ofrenda Especial Anual que se llevará a cabo el sábado 16 de octubre y el domingo, 17 de octubre del 2021 para el fondo de la Jubilación de Sacerdotes.

El fondo de la jubilación de sacerdotes provee ayuda financiera a los sacerdotes que tienen más de 65 años de edad. Este esfuerzo ayuda a sus hermanos sacerdotes, quienes son ancianos, están enfermos y están jubilados. La Diócesis de El Paso enfrenta tres retos con respeto al clero diocesano. Primeramente, debemos asegurar el reclutamiento y educación de nuestros seminaristas, así cumpliremos con las futuras necesidades de la Iglesia. Segundo, el poder ayudar a nuestros sacerdotes en caso de una emergencia, por ejemplo, como una crisis médica y por ultimo proveer un fondo de jubilación para nuestros sacerdotes, especialmente para los de tercera edad con padecimientos médicos. Gracias por su apoyo.

### Collection for the Propagation of the Faith

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, October 23 and Sunday, October 24, 2021 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 23 and 24, 2021, please take the opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. Thank you for your support.

### Ofrenda para las Propagación de la Fe

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 23 y 24 de octubre del 2021, por favor dé se la oportunidad de contribuir a esta digna causa. Gracias por su apoyo.

Gracias por su apoyo.



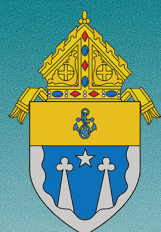
### CASA makes a difference in the lives of El Paso children.

You can help improve the safety and care of children in the child welfare system by providing valuable insight to the judges. As a trained CASA volunteer, your support helps facilitate better outcomes for children and families. Learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer.



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**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
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