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THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

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144 Pilgrims from Diocese Attend World Youth Day 2023

El Paso, TX - In a remarkable gathering that transcended borders, cultures, and backgrounds, World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal, proved to be an unforgettable event for participants from all corners of the globe. Among them were 144 pilgrims from the Diocese of El Paso, who embarked on a journey of faith, camaraderie, and self-discovery in the heart of Europe.

The official welcome ceremony on August 3rd marked the commencement of the World Youth Day, drawing a crowd of nearly 500,000 young individuals from around the world, where Pope Francis delivered a powerful message of acceptance, compassion, and love for all.

“There is room for everyone in the church and, whenever there is not, then, please, we must make room, including for those who make mistakes, who fall or struggle,” the Pope’s voice echoed across the gathering. His message was one of open arms, emphasizing that while human beings may err, they are forever embraced by a loving and forgiving God.

“The Lord does not point a finger, but opens wide his arms: Jesus showed us this on the cross,” Pope Francis continued. “He does not close the door, but invites us to enter; he does not keep us at a distance, but welcomes us.”

For the 144 pilgrims from the Diocese of El Paso, this sentiment was deeply meaningful. Their participation in the World Youth Day 2023 was not just a physical journey, but a spiritual and emotional one as well.

Fr. Fabian Marquez, the Diocesan Liaison for Diocesan Youth Ministries, succinctly captured the essence of the event: “This WYD was a life-changing experience for the youth of El Paso. The event proves that everyone can live as true brothers and sisters where the flags of every nation can be waved as one without fear, hate, weapons, or prejudices, only faith and love for God and for one another.”

The Pope’s words served as a guiding light, reminding all in attendance that the path to salvation is not exclusive, but all-encompassing. As the pilgrims returned home to El Paso, they carried with them the message of inclusivity and love, ready to spread these ideals within their community and beyond.



World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal, proved to be an unforgettable event for participants from all corners of the globe. Among them were 144 pilgrims from the Diocese of El Paso, who embarked on a journey of faith, camaraderie, and self-discovery in the heart of Europe. The official welcome ceremony on August 3rd marked the commencement of the World Youth Day, drawing a crowd of nearly 500,000 young individuals from around the world, where Pope Francis delivered a powerful message of acceptance, compassion, and love for all. *Photo Courtesy of Fr. Fabian Marquez, Diocesan Liaison for Youth Ministries.*

144 pelegrinos de la El Paso asisten a la Jornada Mundial de 2023

El Paso, Texas - La Jornada Mundial de la Juventud 2023 en Lisboa, Portugal, fue un acontecimiento inolvidable para los participantes de todos los rincones del mundo. Entre ellos se encontraban 144 peregrinos de la Diócesis de El Paso, que se embarcaron en un viaje de fe, camaradería y autodescubrimiento en el corazón de Europa. La ceremonia oficial de bienvenida el 3 de agosto marcó el comienzo de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, atrayendo a una multitud de casi 500.000 jóvenes de todo el mundo, donde el Papa Francisco pronunció un poderoso mensaje de aceptación, compasión y amor para todos.

“Hay sitio para todos en la Iglesia y, si no lo hay, por favor, hagámoslo, también para los que se equivocan, caen o luchan”, resonó la voz del Papa entre los asistentes. Su mensaje fue de brazos abiertos, subrayando que, aunque los seres humanos se equivoquen, son abrazados para siempre por un Dios que ama y perdona. “El Señor no señala con el dedo, sino que abre sus brazos: Jesús nos lo mostró en la cruz”, continuó el Papa Francisco. “No cierra la puerta, sino que nos invita a entrar; no nos mantiene a distancia, sino que nos acoge”.

Para los 144 peregrinos de la diócesis de El Paso, este

sentimiento fue profundamente significativo. Su participación en la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud 2023 no fue sólo un viaje físico, sino también espiritual y emocional. El P. Fabián Márquez, Enlace Diocesano para los Ministerios Diocesanos de la Juventud, captó sucintamente la esencia del evento: “Esta JMJ ha sido una experiencia que ha cambiado la vida de los jóvenes de El Paso. El evento demuestra que todos pueden vivir como verdaderos hermanos y hermanas donde las banderas de cada nación pueden ondear como una sola sin miedo, odio, armas o prejuicios, sólo fe y amor por Dios y por los demás.”

Las palabras del Papa sirvieron de guía, recordando a todos los asistentes que el camino hacia la salvación no es exclusivo, sino que lo abarca todo. Cuando los peregrinos regresaron a El Paso, llevaban consigo el mensaje de inclusión y amor, dispuestos a difundir estos ideales en su comunidad y más allá.

EDITOR'S COLUMN - FERNIE CENICEROS

Thank You, Holy Mother!

As I exited an Uber late one Sunday evening, I wondered what my destination would reveal. This was no ordinary Uber ride and no typical Sunday night. This evening I was going to do something I had been dreaming about since I was a little boy. Tonight I would visit my mother and see her in real life.

Of course, I'm not talking about Paulita, my Mom, who reads this article every month... Hi, Ma! No, I am talking about mi madre Santa. I'm talking about *La Morenita, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*.

This summer, I was allowed to visit Mexico City as a wedding party member for a very dear friend of mine who would be getting married in Puebla. The only way to travel there from El Paso was by flight to Mexico City. Because of the length of travel and the time of year, I was going stag to this wedding. So I ensured I



Fernie Cenicerros

built time to visit mi madre in Mexico City.

So here I am, at the back entrance to the *Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*. The Uber driver, of course, knew what he was doing in dropping me there. So, in I walked through a set of large doors into a small type of cave, and as I got to the edge of

the walkway, I turned, and I look up and I see her!

As a photographer, my eyes are trained to see things in unique ways; I have to say, this time, I didn't have to look so hard. Every inch of worship space was extraordinary and memorable. I get on the covier that slowly passes you right underneath her image, and immediately, I am brought to tears. She was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen. Her face was pure, and the colors of her mantle took me directly. No picture, no redrawing, nothing I had ever seen would even come close to the richness of the green hue or the olive-like color of her indigenous skin. In 45 years, I have never been more proud of my indigenous roots than I did at that moment.

When the short convier ended, I left and went around again like a child at an amusement park. I

had to see her again and again and again. I went through like 4 or 5 times. As it was, because this was at the end of a Sunday night, the sanctuary was not as full as it usually was, so I took advantage and got to see her image as much as I could as close as I could.

After my close visit with her, I sat down and attended the last Sunday mass in the basilica. I offered up every single person I could think of. But of course, my thoughts were fixated on my Maternal grandmother, Margarita, and My Grandpa Victor. I thought about my 16-year-old mother offering the *Virgen* her crutch from her childhood accident in the old church in the 50s when she didn't need her crutch anymore. I thought of my Dad, who sacrificed his time with us to work hard for the church when I was growing up. I thought about my brother Victor and his wife

and kids and stepkids. I thought about my wife and daughters, who I hope to bring back to this basilica one day. I thought about my friends in ministry here at the Diocese of El Paso. And I thought about people no longer in my life due to disagreement. For as many people as I could think about, I offered them in prayer that night. I asked my mother to intercede for them to her Son Jesus for whatever they all needed at that moment.

As I left, I had to do one last ride on the convier to look at her at the end of the night; of course, I got my photos of her, and then I said one last prayer of thanks to her. I am forever grateful for this life her Son has blessed me with, and I thanked her for offering me her mantle of hope and love. Thank you, *Gracias Madre Santa!*

¡Gracias, Santa Madre!

Un domingo por la noche, al salir de un Uber, me preguntaba cuál sería mi destino. No era un viaje en Uber cualquiera ni un domingo por la noche cualquiera. Esta noche iba a hacer algo con lo que había soñado desde que era pequeño. Esta noche visitaría a mi madre y la vería en la vida real.

Por supuesto, no estoy hablando de Paulita, mi mamá, que lee este artículo todos los meses... ¡Hola, mamá! No, estoy hablando de mi madre Santa. Hablo de *La Morenita, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*.

Este verano, me permitieron visitar la Ciudad de México como miembro del cortejo nupcial de una amiga muy querida que se casaría en Puebla. La única manera de viajar desde El Paso era en avión a la Ciudad de

México. Debido a la duración del viaje y a la época del año, yo iba de soltero a esta boda. Así que me aseguré de tener tiempo para visitar a mi madre en Ciudad de México.

Así que aquí estoy, en la entrada trasera de la *Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*. El conductor del Uber, por supuesto, sabía lo que hacía al dejarme allí. Así que entré por unas puertas grandes a una especie de cueva pequeña y, al llegar al borde del pasillo, me di la vuelta, miré hacia arriba y ¡la vi!

Como fotógrafo, mis ojos están entrenados para ver las cosas de maneras únicas; tengo que decir que esta vez no tuve que buscar tanto. Cada centímetro del espacio de culto era extraordinario y memorable. Me subo

a la grúa que te pasa lentamente justo por debajo de su imagen e, inmediatamente, se me saltan las lágrimas. Era la mujer más hermosa que jamás había visto. Su rostro era puro, y los colores de su manto me tomaron directamente. Ninguna imagen, ningún dibujo, nada de lo que había visto se acercaba siquiera a la riqueza del tono verde o al color aceitunado de su piel indígena. En 45 años, nunca me he sentido más orgullosa de mis raíces indígenas que en ese momento.

Cuando terminó el breve convier, me fui y di otra vuelta como un niño en un parque de atracciones. Tenía que verla una y otra y otra vez. Di como 4 o 5 vueltas. Como era domingo por la noche, el santuario no estaba tan lleno como de costumbre,

así que aproveché para ver su imagen lo más cerca posible.

Después de mi visita cercana a ella, me senté y asistí a la última misa dominical en la basilica. Ofrecí a todas las personas que se me ocurrieron. Pero, por supuesto, mis pensamientos se fijaron en mi abuela materna, Margarita, y en mi abuelo Víctor. Pensé en mi madre de 16 años ofreciendo a la Virgen su muleta del accidente de su infancia en la vieja iglesia en los años 50, cuando ya no necesitaba su muleta. Pensé en mi papá, que sacrificó su tiempo con nosotros para trabajar duro por la iglesia cuando yo estaba creciendo. Pensé en mi hermano Víctor y en su mujer, sus hijos y sus hijastros. Pensé en mi mujer y mis hijas, a las que espero traer de vuelta a esta basilica algún día. Pensé en mis

amigos en el ministerio aquí en la Diócesis de El Paso. Y pensé en las personas que ya no están en mi vida debido a desacuerdos. Aquella noche recé por todas las personas en las que pude pensar. Le pedí a mi madre que intercediera por ellos ante su Hijo Jesús por lo que todos necesitaran en ese momento.

Al salir, tuve que dar una última vuelta en el convier para verla al final de la noche; por supuesto, le hice mis fotos, y luego le recé una última oración de agradecimiento. Estoy eternamente agradecida por esta vida con la que su Hijo me ha bendecido, y le di las gracias por ofrecerme su manto de esperanza y amor. ¡Gracias, Gracias Madre Santa!

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INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH

World Youth Day 2023

“Mary arose up and went with haste.” (Lk. 1:39) This often overlooked line from the Gospel of Luke was made the theme of World Youth Day 2023 by Pope Francis. A total of 148 young adults from our Diocese did exactly that as they arose at the end of July and went in haste to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal.

Several parish groups, a group of youth from Neo-Catechumenal communities and a group made up of youth from many of our parishes spent two to three years raising money. In all, some 148 young adults and a few young at heart older adults participated. An amazing number considering the costs.

I met a group of 60+ in Madrid. They were led by our Diocesan Liaison for Youth Ministry, Fr. Fabian Marquez. Fr. Ivan Montelongo also was part of the group, along with two Deacons, Deacon Jesus Cardenas and a Franciscan Deacon, Fray Rodrigo Rojas. There were also two seminarians, Javier Valles from the parish of El Buen Pastor and Fray Armando Lopez from

San Antonio Seminary.

Among the other young adults there were individuals of varied backgrounds and stages of life. Some are students at UTEP. Others are at other colleges and a few in their last year of high school. Some are already in the workaday world. All were united in their love for God and the Church. A number brought their guitars and other instruments. Pretty much everyone sang. It is fair to say that Portugal and young people from all over the world know that El Paso youth can sing and celebrate their Faith. They did so in a wide variety of places, including on the streets and subways of Lisbon.

When we gathered for the opening ceremonies the size of the crowd was breathtaking. There is a park that extends for a mile or two, from a high point down toward the city center. There were people as far as one could see, all praising God as their voices echoed back and forth through the enormous space.

Prior to the events with the Pope, the groups that came from the US gathered in a park. There

were 20,000 of us. Part of the gathering involved Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. When the Host was exposed, 20,000 fell to their knees. What had been a somewhat raucous crowd became silent. Suddenly all we could hear were the songs of the birds, the light sea breeze, and the Eucharistic Lord.

On Friday we gathered with the Pope for Stations of the Cross. I met our group on the grass of the park hours prior to the Pope's arrival and the beginning of the Stations. Many slept peacefully in the midst of all the activity, exhausted from the short nights and many miles traveled on foot. We met many people from all over the world as they passed by. Our seminarian, Javier even met a couple seminarians from the South Pacific.

Stations were very cleverly and well done. Each station was accompanied by the recounting of a life experience by a young adult that illustrated the ways Jesus Passion is still experienced today. The Stations were also acted out by some amazing athletes who climbed an enormous scaffolding behind the stage



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

where the Pope was seated.

The Vigil on Saturday evening and the Mass on Sunday were the biggest events of the week. For this we were gathered in an enormous park by the river near where it fed into the sea. Soon what had been bare ground the day before was covered by a sea of people that experts were estimating at 2 million on Sunday. Our youth spent the night there. Fortunately for me, the bishops went to our hotel, but only for about three hours of rest before we headed back to the site for the morning Mass.

At the various events the Pope had many moving things to say. I can only share a few of his words here. He told us that

in the Church there is room for all. He emphasized it repeating, “todos, todos, todos”!

He said, “The only time you should look down on people is when you are lifting them up.” He told the young people (echoing words of St. John Paul II), “Do not be afraid!” He urged them not to let fear prevent them from doing what is good, from giving themselves generously.

There is so much I could share about the amazing pilgrimage, but space limits me. I would encourage you to find one of these great young people, sit them down and invite them to tell you all the wonderful things God did in our midst in those unforgettable days.



Jornada Mundial de la Juventud 2023

“Maria se levantó y se fue de prisa.” (Lc. 1:39) Esta línea del Evangelio de Lucas, que a menudo se pasa por alto, fue convertida en el tema de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud 2023 por el Papa Francisco. Un total de 148 jóvenes adultos de nuestra diócesis hicieron exactamente eso, ya que se levantaron a finales de julio y se fueron de prisa a la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud en Lisboa, Portugal.

Varios grupos parroquiales, un grupo de jóvenes de comunidades neocatecumenales y un grupo formado por jóvenes de muchas de nuestras parroquias dedicaron dos o tres años a recaudar dinero. En total, participaron unos 148 jóvenes adultos y algunos adultos mayores jóvenes de corazón. Una cifra asombrosa teniendo en cuenta los costes.

Conocí a un grupo de más de 60 en Madrid. Los dirigía nuestro enlace diocesano para la pastoral juvenil, el padre Fabián Márquez. El P. Iván Montelongo también formaba parte del grupo, junto con dos diáconos, el diácono Jesús Cárdenas y un diácono franciscano, Fray Rodrigo Rojas. También había dos seminaristas, Javier Valles de la parroquia de El Buen Pastor y Fray Armando López del Seminario de San Antonio.

Entre los demás jóvenes había personas de diversas procedencias y etapas de la vida. Algunos son estudiantes de UTEP. Otros están en otras universidades y unos cuantos en su último año de preparatoria. Algunos ya están en el mundo laboral. Todos estaban unidos

en su amor a Dios y a la Iglesia. Algunos trajeron sus guitarras y otros instrumentos. Casi todos cantaban. Es justo decir que Portugal y los jóvenes de todo el mundo saben que la juventud de El Paso sabe cantar y celebrar su Fe. Lo hicieron en una gran variedad de lugares, incluidas las calles y el metro de Lisboa.

Cuando nos reunimos para las ceremonias de apertura, el tamaño de la multitud era impresionante. Hay un parque que se extiende a lo largo de uno o dos kilómetros, desde un punto elevado hasta el centro de la ciudad. Había gente hasta donde alcanzaba la vista, todos alabando a Dios mientras sus voces resonaban en el enorme espacio.

Antes de los actos con el Papa, los grupos venidos de Estados Unidos se reunieron en un parque. Éramos 20.000 personas. Parte del encuentro consistió en la Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento. Cuando se expuso la Hostia, 20.000 personas cayeron de rodillas. Lo que había sido una multitud algo ruidosa se volvió silenciosa. De repente, sólo se oía el canto de los pájaros, la ligera brisa marina y al Señor de la Eucaristía.

El viernes nos reunimos con el Papa para el Vía Crucis. Me reuní con nuestro grupo en la hierba del parque horas antes de la llegada del Papa y del comienzo del Vía Crucis. Muchos dormían plácidamente en medio de toda la actividad, agotados por las cortas noches y los muchos kilómetros recorridos a pie. Conocimos a mucha gente de todo el mundo a su paso. Nuestro seminarista, Javier, incluso conoció a un par de



seminaristas del Pacífico Sur.

Las estaciones estaban muy bien hechas. Cada estación iba acompañada del relato de una experiencia vital por parte de un joven adulto que ilustraba las formas en que la Pasión de Jesús se sigue experimentando hoy en día. Las estaciones también fueron representadas por unos atletas increíbles que subieron a un enorme andamio situado detrás del escenario donde estaba sentado el Papa.

La Vigilia del sábado por la noche y la Misa del domingo fueron los actos más importantes de la semana. Para ello nos reunimos en un enorme parque junto al río, cerca de

su desembocadura en el mar. Pronto, lo que el día anterior había sido terreno baldío se vio cubierto por un mar de gente que los expertos estimaban en 2 millones el domingo. Nuestros jóvenes pasaron allí la noche. Afortunadamente para mí, los obispos fuimos a nuestro hotel, pero sólo para descansar unas tres horas antes de volver al lugar para la misa de la mañana.

En los diversos actos, el Papa tuvo muchas cosas conmovedoras que decir. Sólo puedo compartir aquí algunas de sus palabras. Nos dijo que en la Iglesia hay sitio para todos. Lo subrayó repitiendo: “¡todos, todos, todos!”

Dijo: “El único momento en que debéis mirar a la gente por encima del hombro es cuando la estáis levantando”. Dijo a los jóvenes (haciéndose eco de palabras de San Juan Pablo II): “¡No tengáis miedo!”. Les instó a no dejar que el miedo les impidiera hacer el bien, entregarse generosamente.

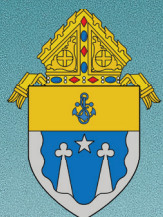
Hay tanto que podría compartir sobre la increíble peregrinación, pero el espacio me limita. Os animo a que encontréis a uno de estos grandes jóvenes, os sentéis con él y le invitéis a que os cuente todas las cosas maravillosas que Dios hizo en medio de nosotros en aquellos días inolvidables.



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Three Seminarians Ordained Deacons in the El Paso Diocese

El Paso, TX - The Diocese of El Paso marked a significant and joyous moment on August 16, 2023, as it witnessed the ordination of three dedicated seminarians to the Diaconate. The reverent ceremony took place at St. Patrick Cathedral in Downtown El Paso.

Luis Manuel Rodarte Jr, a native of El Paso at 32 years of age, embarked on an extraordinary journey that culminated in his diaconate ordination. With a background in academia and medicine, Luis responded to a compelling inner calling that led him to embrace a different path. Surrounded by his loved ones and the congregation, he diligently pursued extensive theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston and St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, CA, reaffirming his unwavering commitment to this sacred mission.

Coming from the lands of Venezuela, Alexander "Askee" Gutierrez Rodriguez, aged 29, carried within him the spirit of faith, community, and service that he witnessed in his homeland. Over the course of nine transformative years, Askee delved deep into studies and prayer, seeking clarity about the profound significance of his divine calling. As the ordination day drew near, his genuine joy and humbleness radiated, reflecting his deep-rooted love for God, the Church, and every member of the spiritual community.

Anwar Camarena, whose journey to the diaconate began in Guadalajara, Mexico, also achieved a remarkable milestone in his spiritual journey. Anwar's priestly formation took him across various seminaries, including St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in El Paso and St. John's Seminary in California. Through each phase of his journey, his faith matured,

culminating in a momentous diaconate ordination that he had long awaited. Anwar expressed his eagerness to embrace the diverse ministries offered by the Diocese of El Paso.

The ordination ceremony was conducted by the esteemed Bishop Mark Seitz. Reflecting on the occasion, Bishop Seitz shared his sentiments, stating, "The ordination to the diaconate was a moment of sheer joy for our diocese.

According to the Dogmatic Constitution on the church, *Lumen Gentium* (Light of the Nations) the Order of Deacon's role is defined as:

At a lower level of the hierarchy are deacons, upon whom hands are imposed "not unto the priesthood, but unto a ministry of service." (74) For strengthened by sacramental grace, in communion with the bishop and his group of priests they serve in the diaconate of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity to the people of God. It is the duty of the deacon, according as it shall have been assigned to him by competent authority, to administer baptism solemnly, to be custodian and dispenser of the Eucharist, to assist at and bless marriages in the name of the Church, to bring Viaticum to the dying, to read the Sacred Scripture to the faithful, to instruct and exhort the people, to preside over the worship and prayer of the faithful, to administer sacramentals, to officiate at funeral and burial services. Dedicated to duties of charity and of administration, let deacons be mindful of the admonition of Blessed Polycarp: "Be merciful, diligent, walking according to the truth of the Lord, who became the servant of all."*



Deacons Luis Rodarte Jr., Alexander "Askee" Rodriguez, and Anwar Camarena photographed here at the end of the Ordination Mass accompanied by Bishop Mark Seitz and Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Celino. *Photo by Fr. Miguel Briseño, Special to the Rio Grande Catholic.*



Luis Rodarte Jr., Alexander "Askee" Rodriguez, and Anwar Camarena lay prostrate in prayer during the Litany of Saints prior to being ordained as deacons. *Photo by Fr. Miguel Briseño, Special to the Rio Grande Catholic.*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

- Fr. Jose Vera-Perez, OFM Sep. 18
- Fr. Alfonso Bonilla, OP Sep. 19
- Fr. Felipe Mariscal C., OSM Sep. 20
- Fr. Joseph Dalimata, FSSP Sep. 23
- Fr. Richard Sotelo, SJ Sep. 30

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

- Fr. Christian Benitez Abrica, OFM Conv. Sep 12, 2018



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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We Are The Body Of Christ, Capital Campaign, Your Donations At Work!

By **Martha Marmolejo**,
Pledge Fulfillment, Specialist

St. Luke Catholic Church was established by Bishop Raymundo Peña on July 1, 1992, under the pastoral care of Msgr. John Peters.

They moved to their permanent site at 930 E. Redd Road in June 1994, after meeting first at Polk Elementary School and then at Hornedo Middle School. The Parish Hall served as the all-purpose building, offering space for celebrating Mass, holding Religious Formation classes, and providing meeting rooms to parish organizations. The Parish Offices were completed in January 1998.

St. Luke celebrated their first Mass in the Church building on the First Sunday of Advent in 2001. Bishop Armando Ochoa consecrated the church in March 2002. The Catechetical Center and Rosary Courtyard were completed by the end of 2008, and, more recently, renovation of the



Parish Hall kitchen and construction of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the meeting room, the Gift Shop, as well as the Baptismal Font. Msgr. John Peters led the community of St. Luke for 16 years, until his retirement in 2008.

Rev. Edilberto Lopez (“Fr. Beto”) took over from 2008 until 2017, expanding ministries, particularly among our parish’s youth and the Spanish-speaking population.

In 2017, Rev. Marcus McFadin was assigned to St. Luke Parish,

bringing a new perspective on ministry and formation. Under his guidance, their programs evolved into even more dynamic groups encouraging prayer, reflection, and service. He guided them through the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic and oversaw the transition of many ministries to online meetings. He was in charge of launching a successful We Are the Body of Christ Capital Campaign in 2019, as one of the Pilot Blocs.

In 2021, Rev. Edward Carpenter, Jr., took over as pastor of St. Luke, sharing his sense of humor and love for the people of God with the community. Under his guidance, the St. Luke community is digging deeper into Social Justice issues, bringing God’s love to the city and beyond.

Both Rev. Marcus McFadin and Rev. Edward Carpenter, Jr., have done an amazing job in promoting the We Are The Body of Christ Capital Campaign, as they have received back \$109,303 in parish share funding through

March 31, 2023.

Rev. Marcus McFadin planned to use those funds to continue with the parish’s endowment fund, to renovate the Guadalupe Chapel, and to have sufficient funds for the ongoing maintenance of the parish property. As of today, they have acquired a new industrial stove for their kitchen and have made improvements to the air conditioning in the gift shop. Good job, St. Luke parishioners!

Overall statistics of the We Are the Body of Christ as of August 10, 2023

TOTAL PLEDGE: \$14,707,850

TOTAL COLLECTED:

\$5,303,629

BALANCE: \$9,404,220

Should you have any questions about fulfilling your pledge, do not hesitate to reach out to Martha Marmolejo, Pledge Fulfillment Specialist, for the We Are the Body of Christ, Capital Campaign at 915-872-8412 ext. 137 or email at mmarmolejo@elpasodiocese.org.

Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo, Campaña Capital, ¡Tus Donativos Funcionan!

Por **Martha Marmolejo**,
Especialista en Cumplimiento

La Iglesia Católica St. Luke fue establecida por el obispo Raymundo Peña el 1 de julio de 1992,

bajo el cuidado pastoral de Monseñor Juan Peters. Se mudaron a su sitio permanente en la calle 930 E. Redd Road en junio de 1994, después de reunirse primero en la Escuela Primaria Polk y luego en la Escuela Intermedia Hornedo. El Salón Parroquial sirvió como edificio de uso múltiple, ofreciendo espacio para celebrar la Misa, impartir clases de Formación Religiosa y proporcionar salas de reuniones para las organizaciones parroquiales. Las Oficinas Parroquiales se terminaron de construir en enero de 1998.

St. Luke celebró su primera Misa en el edificio de la Iglesia el Primer Domingo de Adviento en el 2001. El Obispo Armando Ochoa consagró la iglesia en marzo de 2002. El Centro Catequético y el Patio del Rosario se terminaron de construir a fines del 2008 y más recientemente, se renovó la cocina del Salón Parroquial y la construcción de la Capilla del Santísimo Sacramento, el salón de actos, la Tienda de Regalos, así como la Pila Bautismal. El Monseñor John Peters dirigió la comunidad de St. Luke durante 16 años, hasta su jubilación en el 2008.

El Rev. Edilberto López (“Fr. Beto”) asumió el cargo desde 2008 hasta 2017, ampliando los ministerios, particularmente entre los jóvenes de nuestra parroquia y la población de habla hispana.

En el 2017, el reverendo Marcus McFadin fue asignado a la parroquia St. Luke, lo que trajo una nueva perspectiva sobre el ministerio y la formación. Bajo su dirección, sus programas se convirtieron en grupos aún más dinámicos. Los cuales fomentaban la oración, la reflexión y el servicio. Los guio durante los primeros días de la pandemia de COVID-19 y supervisó la transición de muchos de los ministerios a las reuniones en línea. Estuvo a cargo del lanzamiento de la exitosa Campaña Capital Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo en 2019, como uno de los Bloques Piloto.

En 2021, el reverendo Edward Carpenter, Jr., asumió como párroco de St. Luke, compartiendo su sentido del humor y amor por el pueblo de Dios con la comuni-

dad. Bajo su guía, la comunidad de St. Luke está profundizando en los temas de Justicia Social, llevando el amor de Dios a la ciudad y más allá.

Tanto el reverendo Marcus McFadin como el reverendo Edward Carpenter, Jr., han hecho un trabajo increíble en la promoción de la Campaña Capital Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo, ya que han recibido \$109,303 en fondos de participación parroquial desde su inicio, hasta el 31 de marzo de 2023.

El reverendo Marcus McFadin planeó usar estos fondos para continuar con el fondo de dotación de la parroquia, renovar la Capilla Guadalupe y tener fondos suficientes para el mantenimiento continuo de la propiedad parroquial. A la fecha de hoy, se ha adquirido una nueva estufa

industrial para su cocina y han realizado mejoras en el aire acondicionado de la tienda de regalos. ¡BUEN TRABAJO, FELIGRESSES DE LA PARROQUIA ST. LUKE!

Estadísticas generales de Somos El Cuerpo de Cristo a la fecha del 31 de Agosto del 2023

PROMESA TOTAL:

\$14,707,850

RECOLECTADO: \$5,303,629

BALANCE: \$9,404,220

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre el cumplimiento de su compromiso, no dude en comunicarse con Martha Marmolejo, especialista en cumplimiento de compromisos, para la Campaña Capital Somos El Cuerpo de Cristo, at 915-872-8412 ext. 137 o, por correo electrónico a mmarmolejo@elpasodiocese.org.

Here I Am Lord

El Paso, TX - The Catholic Foundation’s 17th Annual Foundation of Faith Event: Here I Am, Lord will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at the Starlight Event Center from 5-9pm. Tickets, tables, and sponsorships are available and this year our guest will be Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck, an American soccer player who walked away from his professional career to serve God. He shares his story about trusting God’s will and what happens when the jersey comes off after God calls an athlete away from their sport. Fr. Chase is sure to inspire, motivate, and move you as he shares his testimony in answering God’s call to the priesthood!

The annual Foundation of Faith Event is a lively gathering and exciting experience and includes a 5pm cocktail

reception, cash bar, seated dinner with complimentary wine, and a fun live auction. Dr. Jose Manuel and Maureen de la Rosa will be honored with the 8th Annual Dei Gratia Award, which recognizes an individual, couple, or organization for their servant leadership, outstanding contribution to the Diocese of El Paso, and their dedication to being good stewards of God’s grace.

We would be honored for you to attend and witness Fr. Chase’s amazing story and celebrate our Catholic faith! Please visit FOFEVENT.org to get your tickets, tables, or sponsorship. With a sponsorship of \$2,500 and up, you’ll get to spend time with Fr. Chase at a VIP event hosted by Exigo Architecture, on Wednesday, September 6 from 6-9pm.

Thank you in advance to

our committed 2023 sponsors! Tigua Indians | Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, FreePort-McMoRan, Bowling Family Charitable Foundation, Chick-Fil-A Rojas, Farrish, Halter, and Butler Wealth Management Group, Mike and Clara Miles, the Serra Club of El Paso, Martha & Allen Stumbo, Doris Gurs, ClearView Realty, Daw’s Home Furnishing, and Travel by Kerry. Become a VIP and visit FOFEVENT.org for sponsorship details.

If you’re not familiar with the Catholic Foundation and our work, visit catholicfoundationelpaso.org to learn about our programs, philanthropic opportunities, events, and more. The Catholic Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that manages 6 programs: Catholic Legacy Fund, the Foundation’s endowment program,

the Catholic Ministry Appeal, Planned Giving, Foundation Scholarships, Stewardship, and Grants. The Catholic Foundation makes a measurable impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in our expansive diocese and it’s only possible through the generosity and unwavering faith of our many donors. This work is not possible without you.

Sponsorships for the Foundation of Faith Event range from a bronze sponsorship at \$2,500 to the platinum sponsorship of \$20,000. Contact Major Gifts Officer Tony Herrera at 915.872.8412 or therrea@catholicfoundationelpaso.org to discuss sponsorship options. We are grateful for your thoughtful prayer and consideration to join us! In addition to our sponsorship opportunities, tables for 10 are available for

\$1,250 or individual tickets at \$125 each. You can reserve your table and tickets at FOFEVENT.org or contact Joanne Lopez-Padilla at 915.872.8412 or jlopez-padilla@catholicfoundationelpaso.org.

Thank you from our Foundation of Faith Event Committee: Michelle Zayas, Chair, Cecilia Mesta, Michelle Fenton, Veronica Cervantes, Veronica Medrano, Terrie Gunther and Brittany Brockman.

LIVING THE LITURGY

The 'Hail Mary' honors Our Lady and asks for her help



Fr. Michael Lewis, STL

This month, in our series exploring the theology, history, and development of familiar prayers, we turn to the "Hail Mary," known also by its name in Latin, the *Ave Maria*, and historically as the Angelic Salutation.

The prayer we say today is made up of two main parts. The first is based on the Archangel Gabriel's greeting, or salutation, to Mary at the Annunciation (Luke 1:28) combined with the similar greeting of Mary's relative Elizabeth at the Visitation (Luke 1:42). The second part is a petition for Mary's intercession that developed about 1,400 years after the gospels were written.

The initial passage (1a), according to the biblical translation that is usually used at Mass, is "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." Gabriel's first word — *chairein* in Greek, a common greeting in Mary's time — can

The Main Parts of the Hail Mary

(1a) Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
(1b) blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
(2) Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

also be translated as "Rejoice!" or "Peace!" The phrase "favored one" appears here as a kind of title, the archangel's acknowledgment that Mary has been favored by God to give birth to God's Son. Medieval scholars would equate this "favor" to "grace freely given," which is where the current words of the prayer, "full of grace," come from. The last phrase, "The Lord is with you," appears frequently in the Old Testament to indicate God's help and assistance (see, for example, Ruth 2:4 and Judges 6:12).

The second passage (1b) — "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" — is exclaimed "with a loud cry" by Elizabeth, who was "filled with the Holy Spirit." She too acknowledges Mary's "favor" or blessing. But her use

of a common phrase of the time, "among women," indicates that Mary's favor is superlative; she is the "most blessed." Her reference to "the fruit of your womb" is another common phrase found in the Old Testament (see, for example, Genesis 30:2 and Deuteronomy 7:13), and is her recognition that Mary is pregnant with Jesus.

When, in the 13th century, it became a popular devotion to recite these two verses together, the names of Mary and Jesus were added for clarity, the latter addition attributed to Pope Urban IV in 1261.

The second part of the prayer as we know it (2) is a petition that became attached to the scriptural passages during the prayer's development in the 15th and 16th centuries. It acknowledges Mary

as the *Theotokos*, the Mother of God, and names a specific petition: Mary's intercession for "us sinners," especially at the moment of death.

Indeed, for the first few centuries of the Hail Mary's development, no petitions were attached at all. The prayer was simply a recitation of the two biblical verses, a practice promoted by saints like Peter Damian. Many people, however, repeated just the first few words over and over, like, "Hail Mary, full of grace." This was an especially popular practice starting in the 11th century, leading some to attempt to "always have the *Ave* on the tongue," so that if you died, Mary would automatically intercede to gain you entrance into heaven.

Eventually, this pious practice developed into the second part of the prayer. Instead of hoping for Mary's intercession as if by chance, we now specifically petition the Mother of Mercy to, at the hour of our passing, lead us to her Son in paradise.

The complete prayer text that we now know by heart first appeared in print in 1495. Various religious orders added it to their breviaries (the book

used to pray the Liturgy of the Hours) in the early 1500s. But its inclusion in the 1566 *Catechism of the Council of Trent* and in Pope Pius V's 1568 revision of the *Roman Breviary* signaled its widespread adoption by the universal Church. "In this prayer we should earnestly implore her help and assistance," the 1566 *Catechism* said, because "she possesses exalted merits with God, and she is most desirous to assist us by her prayers."

El 'Ave María' honra a Nuestra Señora y pide su ayuda

Este mes, en nuestra serie que explora la teología, la historia y el desarrollo de oraciones familiares, nos centramos en el "Ave María", llamada así por sus dos primeras palabras en latín, pero también históricamente como Salutación Angélica.

La oración que rezamos hoy consta de dos partes principales. La primera se basa en el saludo del arcángel Gabriel a María en la Anunciación (Lc 1,28), combinado con el saludo similar de Isabel, pariente de María, en la Visitación (Lc 1,42). La segunda parte es una petición de intercesión de María que se desarrolló unos 1400 años después de que se escribieran los evangelios.

El pasaje inicial (1a), según la traducción bíblica que se encuentra en el leccionario, es "¡Alégrate, llena de gracia, el Señor está contigo!". La primera palabra de Gabriel —*kairein* en griego, un saludo habitual en la época de María— también puede traducirse como "¡Saludos!" o "¡Paz!". La frase "favorecida" aparece aquí como una especie de título, el reconocimiento del

arcángel de que María ha sido favorecida por Dios para dar a luz al Hijo de Dios. Los eruditos medievales equipararían este "favor" a la "gracia concedida gratuitamente", de donde proceden las palabras actuales de la oración, "llena de gracia". La última frase, "El Señor está contigo", aparece con frecuencia en el Antiguo Testamento para indicar la ayuda y la asistencia de Dios (véanse, por ejemplo, Rut 2:4 y Jueces 6:12).

El segundo pasaje (1b) —"bendita eres entre todas las mujeres y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre"— es exclamado por Isabel, que estaba "llena del Espíritu Santo". Ella también reconoce el "favor" o la bendición de María. Pero su uso de una frase común de la época, "entre todas las mujeres", indica que el favor de María es superlativo; es la "más bendita". Su referencia al "fruto de tu vientre" es otra frase común que se encuentra en el Antiguo Testamento (véase, por ejemplo, Gén 30,2 y Deut 7,13), y es su reconocimiento de que María

Las partes principales del Ave María

(1a) Dios te salve, María, llena eres de gracia,
el Señor es contigo,
(1b) bendita eres entre todas las mujeres
y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre, Jesús.
(2) Santa María, Madre de Dios,
ruega por nosotros, pecadores,
ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte.
Amén.

está embarazada de Jesús.

Cuando, en el siglo XIII, se convirtió en una devoción popular recitar estos dos versículos juntos, se añadieron los nombres de María y Jesús para mayor claridad, adición esta última atribuida al papa Urbano IV en 1261.

La segunda parte de la oración tal como la conocemos (2) es una petición que se unió a los pasajes de las escrituras durante el desarrollo de la oración en los siglos XV y XVI. Reconoce a María como la *Theotokos*, la Madre de Dios, y nombra una petición específica: La intercesión de María por "nosotros los pecadores",

especialmente en el momento de la muerte.

De hecho, durante los primeros siglos de desarrollo del Ave María, no se adjuntaba ninguna petición. La oración consistía simplemente en recitar los dos versículos bíblicos, una práctica promovida por santos como Pedro Damián. Mucha gente, sin embargo, repetía sólo las primeras palabras una y otra vez, como "Ave María, llena eres de gracia". Ésta fue una práctica especialmente popular a partir del siglo XI, que llevó a algunos a intentar "tener siempre el *Ave* en la lengua", para que, si morías, María intercediera automática-

mente para que entraras en el cielo.

Con el tiempo, esta práctica piadosa se convirtió en la segunda parte de la oración. En lugar de esperar la intercesión de María como por casualidad, ahora pedimos específicamente a la Madre de Misericordia que, a la hora de nuestro fallecimiento, nos conduzca hasta su Hijo en el paraíso.

El texto completo de la oración que ahora conocemos de memoria apareció impreso por primera vez en 1495. Varias órdenes religiosas lo añadieron a sus breviarios (el libro utilizado para rezar la Liturgia de las Horas) a principios del siglo XVI. Pero su inclusión en el *Catecismo del Concilio de Trento* de 1566 y en la revisión del *Breviario Romano* del Papa Pío V de 1568 señaló su adopción generalizada por la Iglesia universal. "En esta oración debemos implorar su ayuda y asistencia", decía el *Catecismo* de 1566, porque "posee méritos exaltados ante Dios, y está muy deseosa de ayudarnos con sus oraciones".



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



SIDEWALK JESUS

Walk With Me Today



Janet M. Crowe

“My Jesus, my Friend, walk with me today.

Hand in hand, guide me to learn and to know what is good.

Arm in arm, help me to grow in my faith and in love for others. Side by side, stay by me to protect me and to show me Your ways.

Heart to heart, help me to pray and to be all that you want me to be.

Thank You, Jesus, for the special love You have for me. Amen.”

Our family prayed this simple and powerful prayer from the Priests of the Sacred Heart every morning of the school year when our children were growing up. It became our breakfast ritual, prayed slowly, each line emphasized so our son and daughter could visualize Jesus by their side helping them throughout their day.

Recently I found the bent and

dog-eared copy of this prayer in a stack of old papers. Memories flooded through my heart as I heard once again the young voices of my precious children, now all grown up and moved away.

It was this prayer that introduced the idea to my children that Jesus was not only God, our Savior and Redeemer, who lived in Heaven and loved us from afar. No, Jesus was also their Friend, someone who thought they were very special, who wanted to spend time with them, who wanted to listen to their hopes and dreams, who cared about what happened to them during their day at school, and who would be there with them to help them through any situation, any problem and celebrate their every joy.

Jesus would be the Friend to guide them through whatever decisions they needed to make on a minute-by-minute basis – just think how many decisions a person makes each day, maybe children more than adults. More importantly, during their years in school when they were learning so much, like little sponges soaking up facts, theories, and knowledge, Jesus would be holding their hands and pointing out the wisdom to know what was important and good. Truth can sometimes seem rather dull

while deception is cloaked in glamour and excitement. Wisdom is necessary to shine the light on the glitz of deceit and uncover the real value of seeing what God sees as the proper way to live.

As they advanced in age, grade levels, and, hopefully, good judgment, they would learn that living their faith meant walking arm in arm with Jesus and also loving all of His children. This was the verse that was more difficult for me as a parent than for my child who wanted to be friends with everyone, even the kid who I preferred to keep not only at arm’s length but maybe with a metal barricade between them. I feared the other kid’s bad influence on my child. Instead, my son reminded me that he could just as easily be the better influence on the other kid. I prayed he was right.

Knowing that Jesus was at their sides, my eyes stopped tearing up every time I dropped them off at school – well, most days, anyway. I knew that the world’s views would invade their minds and hearts, sometimes more but, hopefully, less. With Jesus to show them His ways, I prayed that He would also help me know how to answer their questions, to anticipate any problems, and to help

my muddling inexperience as a parent and the most important person in a child’s life to be guided by the Holy Spirit. When my daughter came home with an assignment to read a book by an author of whom I disapproved, Jesus and the Holy Spirit helped me to calmly share the reading assignment with my daughter. Together we discovered the ways that particular author seemed to instill anger and resentment in her characters and the scenes played out in the plot. Then we compared these to one of our favorite authors whose characters worked through problems with teamwork and helpfulness rather than tearing others down. In years to come, I recognized that the book I had not liked was probably the most important book my daughter read because we learned together to evaluate the printed word rather than simply accept it as written.

I trusted that Jesus would keep my children in His heart but repeating this prayer every morning helped instill that knowledge in their hearts as well. Knowing that Jesus is only a heartbeat away from your own heart, that you are linked through the love you have for one another makes us realize that the more you love Jesus, the more His love shines through

you toward others. He loves us with amazing abundance, but when we learn to love Him more and more, His love is reflected in the way we live our lives – in the way He wants us to be.

Through this daily prayer, I think my children, as well as my husband and I, came to believe and to really feel the very special love that Jesus has for His children, His little friends, and that He wants to share in their daily life, every day. Recognizing that and feeling it in one’s heart makes us realize that Jesus truly IS with us every step of our walk through life.

My Jesus, my Friend, please bless every child every day throughout this school year. Help each and every one of them to recognize the love You have for them and their parents. Show them Your ways and guide them to know how to share Your love with others. My Jesus, My Friend, walk with us today.

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

What About Synthetic Embryos?



Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

Embryonic stem cells have held out a certain appeal and promise because they are remarkably flexible. Researchers can make various cell types out of them, whether nerve cells or pancreatic islet cells, and these could, in theory, be used to treat diseases like Parkinson’s or diabetes. These morally-problematic cells, obtained by destroying human embryos, are, however, limited in their degree of flexibility, lacking the ability to “rewind” and make an entire embryo.

Until now.

Recent reports suggest it may now be possible to generate “synthetic embryos” from embryonic stem cells through various manipulations, including genetic reprogramming steps and mixing various cell types together, without the need for sperm and egg. Researchers claim that synthetic embryos could be used to help them unlock the mysteries of very early human development, and address early pregnancy loss.

When a researcher from Cambridge University and another in Israel recently announced that they had been able to produce such an “embryo model,” a longstanding “line in the biological sand” appears to have been crossed, along with some important ethical lines as well.

At least two notable ethical concerns arise in the wake of this new technology: First, the use of unethically-derived cell types in biomedical research, especially human embryonic stem cells, still remains a major concern. Second, if scientists are able to successfully produce a living human embryo by this technology, this would clearly raise additional serious ethical objections.

New human beings are entitled to the respect of entering the world only through the marital embrace. Any time we create living human embryos by other approaches, whether by cloning, by IVF, by synthetic embryo construction, or by other novel methods, we cross a key moral line.

The big question hanging over this research is: Are these so-called “synthetic embryos” really living human embryos? If they are, we have walked right into the ethical landmine of creating human beings solely to be exploited for research or experimental purposes. If they are not, can that line be crossed through additional steps to make them

authentic human embryos?

Scientists are likely to continue to improve their techniques so as to generate better embryo stand-ins, enabling them to study in ever greater detail the way that early human development unfolds.

As the Director of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre, David Albert Jones, sums it up: “A synthetic embryo is not a ‘model’ of an embryo, it is an attempt to make an embryo. If this attempt is successful, scientifically, then it will be wrong ethically, but if it is not successful scientifically then it will not be able to tell us much about normal human development.”

The lab from Cambridge concluded that the structures it made were not real embryos. Alfonso Martinez Arias, a developmental biologist at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain agreed, describing them as “masses of cells separated into compartments, but no embryo-like organization.” He suggested that the cell manipulation “confuses what [the] cells do” so that a real embryo is not produced.

The research team based at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, however, produced extremely realistic synthetic embryo models that grew for up to two weeks. They exhibited characteristics quite similar to regular embryos, as developmental biologist Jesse

Veenvliet of the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics pointed out: “The similarity to the natural embryo is remarkable, almost uncanny.” If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck then, as they say, might it really be a duck?

Some claim that if synthetic embryos were implanted, they would fail to initiate a pregnancy, and this proves they aren’t real embryos. But women’s pregnancies sometimes fail through miscarriages not because their child was “not an embryo,” but because their child was affected by a genetic or developmental defect.

Could these newly-produced synthetic embryos be real embryos that have a defect thanks to the various laboratory manipulations they have undergone? It seems unsafe to start from the assumption that they are “synthetic” and hence “not-truly-embryos,” given the challenging task of distinguishing a “non-embryo” from an “embryo with a defect.”

By employing terms like “embryo structures,” “synthetic embryos,” “stem cell embryo models,” or even “stemembryos,” researchers may be seeking to go around ethics by relying on euphemism.

Even though sperm and egg are not directly employed to make synthetic embryos, this also does not rule out the pos-

sibility that these entities could be genuine embryos. In human cloning, for example, no sperm is needed to make real cloned human embryos. Dolly the sheep arose from a real sheep embryo, even though no sperm was involved. Over time scientists are coming up with more technologically advanced ways of creating organisms, including human organisms, apart from the usual approach that relies directly on sperm and egg.

Ethically speaking, a great deal is at stake in these kinds of synthetic embryo experiments that threaten to manipulate and destroy human life. These developmental studies ought to be carried out by studying animal models, carefully avoiding the use of human embryonic stem cells and the production of human embryos.

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

VIDA DEL ESPIRITU

Estrategias Del Demonio Para La Cuaresma



Padre Wilson Cuevas

Satanás convoco una convención mundial de demonios. En su discurso de apertura dijo:

1. No podemos evitar que los católicos vayan a su Misa los domingos.
2. No podemos evitar que lean la Biblia y conozcan la verdad.
3. No podemos evitar que hagan sus oraciones de cada día.
4. No podemos evitar que sigan haciendo sus retiros espirituales.
5. No podemos evitar que se confiesen de sus pecados...

Una vez que establezcan su conexión con Dios, nuestro poder sobre ellos se pierde. Así que:

1. Déjenlos que vayan a su Misa los Domingos
2. Déjenlos que lean la Biblia
3. Déjenlos que hagan sus oraciones
4. Déjenlos que hagan sus retiros espirituales
5. Déjenlos que se confiesen...

Pero róbenles el tiempo, de manera que no tengan tiempo para desarrollar una relación con Dios. Esto es lo que quiero que hagan: distraiganlos durante todo el día. Como haremos eso? Gritaron los demonios.

1. Manténganlos ocupados con minuciosidades de la vida e invente innumerables proyectos que ocupen sus mentes.
2. Tiéntenlos a gastar bastante, gastar y gastar...

3. Persuadan a las esposas a que vayan a trabajar por largas horas y a los esposos a trabajar domingo a domingo y de 10 a 12 horas al día, hasta que queden cansados y sus bolsillos vacíos...

4. Por nada del mundo los dejen pasar tiempo con sus hijos y seres queridos.

5. En la medida que sus familias se fragmenten, pronto sus hogares no serán un escape a las presiones del trabajo.

6. Llenen de preocupaciones y ruidos sus mentes para que no puedan escuchar la voz de Dios...

7. Entusiásmenlos a que escuchen radio siempre que conduzcan sus carros.

8. A que mantengan siempre encendido en sus hogares el TV, DVD, computadora Internet, escuche música degradante con letras obscenas.

9. Llenen la mesita de la sala con revistas y periódicos.

10. Bombardeen sus mentes con noticias las 24 horas.

11. Inunden sus correos con basuras, Catálogos, sorteos, servicios y falsa esperanzas.

12. Pongan modelos bellas y delgadas en las revistas, en TV. Para que los esposos crean que la belleza exterior es lo que importa y se sientan insatisfechos con sus esposas.

13. Mantenga demasiado agotadas a las esposas, para no amar a sus esposos por la noche. Ellos empezaran a buscar en otras partes rápidamente.

14. Emocionen con nuevas tecnología a los hijos, para que piensen que las cosas materiales son importantes.

15. En las horas de diversión y esparcimiento, hágalos que sean excesivos. Que regresen

agotados.

16. Cuando tengan reuniones espirituales o de ministerios, involúcrenlos en chismes, charlatanería, para que salgan de ahí con sus conciencias perturbadas.

17. Pronto estarán trabajando con sus propias fuerzas, sacrificando su salud y su familia por el bienestar de la causa. Funcionara. Agregó triunfante.

18. Ah se me olvidaba, manténganlos ocupados cuando lean estos planes. Pregunta: Ha tenido éxito el Diablo con su plan? Responde, si no estás tan ocupado... Piensa y Reflexiona. Tú decides!

The Devil's Lenten Strategies

Satan convened a world convention of demons. In his opening speech he said:

1. We cannot stop Catholics from going to his Mass on Sundays.
2. We cannot prevent them from reading the Bible and knowing the truth.
3. We cannot stop them from saying their daily prayers.
4. We can't stop them from going on their spiritual retreats.
5. We can't stop them from confessing their sins....

Once they establish their connection with God, our power over them is lost. So:

- Let them go to their Mass on Sundays 2.
2. Let them read the Bible
3. Let them pray their prayers
4. Let them make their spiritu-

al retreats.

5. Let them go to confession....

But steal their time, so that they don't have time to develop a relationship with God. This is what I want you to do: distract them all day long. How are we going to do that? cried the demons.

1. Keep them busy with the minutiae of life and invent countless projects to occupy their minds.

2. Tempt them to spend and spend and spend....

3. Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work Sunday to Sunday and from 10 to 12 hours a day, until they are tired and their pockets are empty....

4. For nothing in the world

let them spend time with their children and loved ones.

5. As your families fragment, soon your homes will no longer be an escape from the pressures of work.

6. fill your minds with worries and noises so that you cannot hear the voice of God...

7. Encourage them to listen to the radio whenever they drive their cars....

8. Encourage them to keep TV, DVD, computer, Internet, listen to degrading music with obscene lyrics always turned on in their homes.

9. Fill the coffee table in the living room with magazines and newspapers.

10. Bombard their minds with news 24 hours a day.

11. Flood your mail with junk

mail, catalogs, sweepstakes, services and false hopes.

12. Put beautiful and thin models in magazines, on TV. So that husbands believe that external beauty is what matters and feel dissatisfied with their wives.

13. Keep wives too exhausted to love their husbands at night. They will quickly start looking elsewhere.

14. Excite the children with new technology, so that they think that material things are important.

15. In the hours of fun and recreation, make them excessive. Let them come back exhausted.

16. When they have spiritual or ministry meetings, involve them in gossip, chatter, so that they leave with their consciences disturbed.

17. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the welfare of the cause. It will work. I add triumphantly.

18. Oh I forgot, keep them busy when they read these plans. Question: Has the Devil succeeded with his plan? Answer, if you are not too busy... Think and Reflect. You decide!

And The 2023 Steward Of The Year Is

By Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso is pleased to announce the 2023 Steward of the Year – Guadalupe Gonzalez, parishioner of San Antonio de Padua Parish who has exceptionally served in the ministry of bereavement with her gifts and talents, demonstrating a Stewardship way of life of: PRAY,-SERVE and GIVE.

The Steward of the Year selection committee couldn't oversee the commitment to service that Guadalupe Gonzalez has for the ministry of bereavement. Fr. Mariano Lopez, Pastor of San Antonio de Padua nominated Guadalupe Gonzalez for her exemplary life of service to the ones who suffer the loss of their loved ones. "On several occasions, I assured her that there were already other ministers who are able to assist and that they were already properly trained, the nominee said that she felt a desire and a calling to serve fam-

ilies who are grieving and asked to remain in this ministry, during this time she lost several of her family members and did not seek privileges in the carrying out of the funeral rites with our parish, she remained humble and was able to continue serving before and after their losses in spite of the grief that she was going through herself. She made use of her grief to serve others with greater compassion and empathy." – Fr. Mariano Lopez.

He also mentioned how Guadalupe Gonzalez applies her gifts and talents to help others heal from their loss. "She lead a grieving seminar around the holiday season with 50 participants, Guadalupe developed rituals and an environment for the seminar. The prayer space was creatively set up as there were mementos that people could relate to such as a blanket and other personal items a deceased person would be identified for in their family. Around these items was an empty chair to express the void of loss. Guadalupe also had a prayer

tree that was a dried branch and gave everyone a ribbon in which to write the name of their deceased loved ones. They were encouraged in an atmosphere of prayer to tie the ribbons with the names on the tree as they witnessed how the dried branch came to life at the end filled with ribbons." – Fr. Mariano Lopez.

Congratulations to our 2023 Steward of the Year Guadalupe Gonzalez for your award recognition, the Catholic Foundation will continue to pray for your life of service that inspires others to live a Stewardship way of life of PRAY. SERVE and GIVE.

And the Category winners are...

The Steward of the Year contest consists of 7 categories, the following are the winners for each category who have demonstrated an exemplary life of service. Congratulations!

St. John of God: Ministry of Health: Ma. Elena Hernandez, All Saints Parish

San Juan Diego: Ministry of Communication and Evan-



Lupe Gonzalez

cutta: Ministry to the Poor, Genevieve Bassham, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Marfa, TX.

Blessed Carlos Acutis: Ministry of Youth and Young Adults, Gabriel Saucedo, Cathedral High School.

Congratulations Ma. Elena, Isaac, Sr. Maria, Sofia, Genevieve and Gabriel, your service makes an impact in the Diocese of El Paso.

The Steward of the Year contest invites clergy, parish administrators, Catholic school principals and diocesan ministers to nominate an exemplary minister who demonstrates a life of Stewardship of Pray, Serve and Give. This contest will resume in the Summer of 2024, please contact Karina Sandoval at ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org or at 915-872-8412 for more information.

gelization: Isaac Esparza, San Antonio de Padua Parish

St. John Baptist of La Salle: Ministry of Education and Religious Formation: Sr. Maria Hernandez from the Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools.

St. Toribio Romo: Ministry of Refugees and Immigrants: Sofia Escobar, Loretto Academy
St. Mother Teresa of Cal-

8th Annual Dei Gratia Award Winners to be Honored at Foundation of Faith Event

By Linda Caro
Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Jose Manuel and Maureen de la Rosa will be honored as the recipients of the Dei Gratia Award during the 17th Annual Foundation of Faith Event: Here I Am, Lord on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at the Starlight Event Center.

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.

Dr. Jose Manuel “Manny” de la Rosa, the son of Manuel and Guadalupe de la Rosa was born in El Paso, Texas in 1958 at the Daughters of Charity’s Hotel Dieu Hospital. For the first years of his life he lived in Ciudad, Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico and moved back to El Paso when he was seven years old. He attended St. Joseph’s Catholic School, and graduated from Cathedral High School in 1976. Manny went on to attend Notre Dame University where he met Maureen Cannon, a chemistry student. Maureen was the daughter of Edward and Joan Cannon and was born in 1959 in Brighton, Massachusetts; a suburb of Boston. They were married at the Sacred Heart Basilica at Notre Dame and have been married for 43 years. Manny and Maureen are the parents of six children; Michael, Mary, Melissa, Meaghan, Mercedes and Max and grandparents of five beautiful grandchildren with one on the way!

Manny received his medical degree and internship from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Lubbock and completed a pediatric internship and residency at Texas Tech University at El Paso. He also holds a master’s in health sciences from the Harvard University, School of Public Health. Manny, who is currently the Vice President for Outreach and Community Engagement at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center of El Paso, is a founding board member of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso, established in 2001, and has held many leadership roles serving the board and its committees, including Board President. Manny was an integral part of establishing and served as the Founding Dean of the Paul L.



Manny and Maureen De La Rosa were married at the Sacred Heart Basilica at Notre Dame and have been married for 43 years and are the parents of six children; Michael, Mary, Melissa, Meaghan, Mercedes and Max and grandparents of five beautiful grandchildren with one on the way. *Photo Courtesy of the De La Rosa Family*

Foster School of Medicine in El Paso, and has served in various leadership positions in the El Paso community including serving on the Workforce Solutions Borderplex Board of Directors, Hospice of El Paso Board of Directors, and the Hispanic Chamber and Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, United States/Mexico Border Health Commission, and is the liaison to the American Medical Association-Academic Physicians Section Governing Council. The National Hispanic Medical Association in Washington named him the Hispanic Physician of the Year for his leadership on behalf of Hispanics and the underserved and the Rotary Club of El Paso gave him their Distinguished Service Award.

Maureen’s accomplishments have been rooted in faith, family and community. She is a leader in the Church and was selected by the Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, D.D., Bishop of El Paso to represent the Diocese on the Burkitt Foundation Board in support of Catholic Education and also sits on the Board of Directors for the Office of Education. She is an active member of St. Raphael Parish and serves on ACTS retreats, the Sisters in Christ ministry, directs several parish prayer groups,

she’s a member of the Sisters of the Well, a Eucharist Minister, a spiritual director, a member of the Seven Sisters Apostolate, helps to direct the confirmation retreat team, and has also participated in the St. Raphael’s Women’s Conference as a coordinator and workshop speaker. Maureen also serves in ministry to pray a holy hour for our bishop, she received a certificate from Creighton University’s Spiritual Director Program and is currently enrolled at Creighton to receive her Master’s degree in Spiritual Direction.

In 2015, the de la Rosa’s were invested into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and were selected by the Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, D.D. to serve as Section Representatives in 2018. The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is the only lay institution of the Vatican State charged with the task of providing for the needs of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and for all the activities and initiatives which are necessary to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Maureen recalled “once we realized that we were being asked to serve the Holy Land as a ministry of the Pope on behalf of the Pope, it felt like a specific call from the

Lord... it was humbling.”

Manny and Maureen have been faithful stewards of God’s gifts and have supported several funds to benefit various needs of the Diocese, including creating a Seminarian Education Fund in the name of Manny’s parents, supporting for the needs of the Office of Catholic Education, the Retired Priest Appreciation Fund, the Msgr. Francis Smith Scholarship Fund for St. Raphael school, the annual Catholic Ministry Appeal, the Diocesan Capital Campaign, and they have established funding for the Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services in support of legal aid for migrants and foreign priests of the Diocese. They have generously given their time, talent, and treasure to the Catholic Community for decades. They have been proud and dedicated parishioners of St. Raphael Catholic Church, for over 25 years, where Maureen has served as catechist teaching confirmation and Manny continues to serve on the parish finance council.

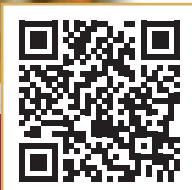
Manny and Maureen have proven to be admirable recipients of the 8th Annual Dei Gratia Award as their strong faith in God, their commitment to the Church, and dedication to further the works of Jesus Christ has been

the center of their accomplishments. It is through this devotion that they leave an incredible legacy of faith for their children, the Church, and the people in the Diocese of El Paso.

We invite you to come celebrate Manny and Maureen de la Rosa at the 17th Annual Foundation of Faith Event: Here I Am, Lord on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at the Starlight Event Center from 5-9pm, with a cocktail hour beginning at 5pm. The evening includes the cocktail reception, a seated dinner with wine, Dei Gratia Award presentation, live auction, and keynote speaker, Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck.

The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso will also host VIP Evening with Fr. Chase on Wednesday, September 6 at 6pm at a private home. Sponsorships of \$2,500 and up provide you with invitations to attend this special event, which includes heavy hors d’oeuvres, wine, and one-on-one time with our keynote speaker.

Proceeds from this event support the work of the Catholic Foundation in sustaining the long-term needs of the ministries, charities, parishes and schools of our diocese.



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LOOK AT WHAT 2024 HAS FOR YOU!

<p>NEW! PILGRIMAGE</p> <p><u>MARIAN SHRINES</u> BARCELONA - MONTSERRAT - ZARAGOZA LOURDES - LOYOLA - BURGOS SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA FATIMA - LISBON</p> <p><i>Bishop Tony Celino & Fr. Marcus McFadin</i></p> <p>\$5,399 Includes R/T Air from El Paso</p> <p>Based on Double Occupancy September 5 - 16, 2024</p> <p>EXPERIENCE THE HEALING WATERS OF LOURDES. TOUR THE AMAZING SAGRADA FAMILIA. PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESSION OF FATIMA. PRAY AT THE BLACK MADONNA OF MONTSERRAT.</p> 	<p>NEW! PILGRIMAGE</p> <p><u>STEPS OF ST. PAUL GREECE</u></p> <p><u>Includes a 3 Day Aegean Sea Cruise</u></p> <p><i>Fr. Beto Lopez</i></p> <p>ATHENS - THESSALONIKI - PHILIPPI - DELPHI METEORA - CORINTH - MYKONOS - CRETE EPHEBUS (HOUSE OF MARY) - SANTORINI +</p> <p>Walk in the footsteps of St. Paul as we explore the treasures and beauty of this magical country.</p> <p>October 4 - 14, 2024</p> <p>\$5,299 Includes R/T Air from El Paso</p> <p>Based on Double Occupancy</p> 	<p>NEW! PILGRIMAGE</p> <p><u>SHRINES OF NORTHERN FRANCE</u></p> <p>PARIS - CHARTRES - LISIEUX MONT SAINT MICHEL - ORLEANS CHAMBORD - LYON - ARS - NEVERS VERSAILLES - PARIS</p> <p><i>Fr. Mariano Lopez</i> October 8 - 18, 2024</p> <p>\$5,499 Includes R/T Air from El Paso</p> <p>Based on Double Occupancy</p> <p>EXPERIENCE THE SITES OF PARIS. WALK ALONG THE SANDS OF NORMANDY BEACH. VISIT THE AMAZING MONT SAINT MICHEL. VIEW THE CORRUPT BODY OF ST. BERNADETTE. SEE THE PALACE OF FRENCH KING (VERSAILLES)</p> 
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<p>LAST CALL! RIVER CRUISE LAST CALL!</p> <p><u>PARIS - NORMANDY - SEINE RIVER</u></p> <p>PARIS - MONET'S HOME & GARDEN - HONFLEUF, AND MORE</p> <p>Starting at \$3,299 per person</p> <p>April 14 - 25, 2024</p> <p>Very Limited Space Free DVD & Detailed Brochure Available</p>  	<p>NEW! OCEAN CRUISE</p> <p><u>AN AMAZING 14-DAY MEDITERRANEAN, GREEK ISLES, FRANCE & TURKEY CRUISE!!!</u></p> <p>BARCELONA - GIBRALTAR - MARSEILLE - FLORENCE - ROME - NAPLES SANTORINI - ISTANBUL - ATHENS - AND MORE!!</p> <p>August 3-17, 2024 - Starting at \$2,899 Per Person</p> <p><i>Fr. Ben Flores - Mother Cabrini</i></p> <p>SUN PRINCESS - THE NEWEST LUXURY SHIP IN THE PRINCESS CRUISES FLEET! THIS SHIP WILL SELL OUT QUICKLY! CALL TODAY FOR FURTHER DETAILS.</p>  
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<p>NEW! PILGRIMAGE</p> <p><u>The Ultimate Holy Land 11 Day Pilgrimage</u></p> <p>April 10-20, 2024</p> <p><i>Fr. Nathan Mamo</i></p> <p>JERUSALEM - BETHLEHEM - MT. TABOR - MOUNT OF OLIVES RENEW YOUR BAPTISM IN THE JORDAN RENEW YOUR WEDDING VOWS IN CANA PRAY IN THE HOLY SEPULCHER, +.</p> <p>\$5,599 Includes Round Trip Air from El Paso.</p> <p>Based on Double Occupancy The Holy Land remains the #1 destination for Catholics!</p>	<p>OCEAN CRUISE</p> <p>2 Oceans & 1 Canal! PANAMA CANAL CRUISE</p> <p>Ft. Lauderdale to Los Angeles 8 Ports in 15 Days Colombia - Panama - Costa Rica Nicaragua - Huatulco & Puerto Vallarta, Mexico</p> <p>March 6 - 21, 2024 (16 Days) From \$1,419 Per Person</p>  	<p>NEW! OCEAN CRUISE</p> <p><u>HOW WILL YOU RING IN 2025???</u></p> <p><u>New Year's Eve Cruise</u></p> <p>Round trip from Galveston 3 Ports in 7 Days Cozumel - Costa Maya and Roatan, Honduras</p> <p>Dec. 29 - Jan 4, 2024/2025 From \$777.00 Per Person Cruise Only - Air Not Included</p>  
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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! - LIMITED OPPORTUNITY!

<p>FINAL DATE TO BOOK! DEC. 15, 2023</p> 	<p align="center"><i>Best of Britain - England - Wales - Scotland Featuring the Famous Edenburg Castle Military Tattoo!</i></p> <p align="center"><i>Fr. Frank Lopez - St. Matthew Parish</i></p> <p align="center">AUGUST 10 - 20, 2024 - \$3,799</p>  	<p>FINAL DATE TO BOOK! DEC. 15, 2023</p> <p align="center">FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT <i>Travel with Kerry</i> 12653 Tierra Alzada Dr. El Paso, Texas 79938 915-591-4246 (Talk/Text) Kerry@TravelWK.com</p> 
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An Exciting Time of Celebration for our Vocations

By Tina Edwards-Milam,
Annual Appeal Director

The Diocesan Vocations Ministry values all vocations. God makes the universal call to a life of holiness and service to all the baptized: single, married, ordained, and consecrated. Extraordinarily, the Vocations Ministry provides resources and discernment opportunities that promote and cultivate vocations to ordained and consecrated life.

On August 16, 2023, we celebrated the joyful ordination of three of our seminarians into Transitional Deacons, Anwar Camarena of Guadalajara, Mexico, Luis Manuel Rodarte, Jr. of El Paso, Texas, and Alexander "Askee" Gutierrez Rodriguez of Venezuela. We continue to rejoice in welcoming them into this sacred order, a life of service, compassion, and love for all of God's people in our beautiful city of El Paso. Let us continue praying for them and wish them continued blessings to them, their families, and all those whose lives they will impact.

Another inspiring story of faith, trust, and love, on Thursday, September 7th, 2023, The Catholic Foundation's 17th Annual Foundation of Faith Event: Here I Am, Lord, will be held at the Starlight Event Center from 5-9 pm. This year's guest speaker will be Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck, an American soccer player who walked away from his professional career to serve God. He shares his story about trusting God's will and what happens after God calls an athlete away from their sport. Fr. Chase will inspire, motivate, and move

you as he shares his testimony in answering God's call to the priesthood!

Whatever the state of life God calls you to, there is a commitment to build up society in a way that reflects the love of God. Each person is believed to have been created with specific talents and gifts that orient us toward a particular way of life.

I had the blessed opportunity to sit and talk with Allan Roman, Seminarian, about his call to serve in vocations. "My first memory of becoming a priest was when I was around four years old when I heard Fr. Calderón singing "The holy, holy, holy"; his voice impressed me so much that I judged to imitate him; that is, I played at giving Mass, and that was how my desire to be a priest began, remembering that biblical passage "from the mother's womb I call you and choose you." Another essential element in my vocational growth is the figure of the Virgin Mary, under the invocation of Our Lady de la Limpia Concepcion of Ujarras and Pope Saint John Paul II," said Allan.

Allan said, "In a particular way, the priestly figure of Fr. Rolando Fonseca has been significant since he has always encouraged me to move forward in vocational discernment. I remember when he told me, "We throw ourselves into the void together, trusting that in the end, God will be waiting for us" Next to him was Fr. John Tellez, my rector, who has been another essential priestly figure and, above all a luminary in my vocational and faith journey. Thus, the vocation office has helped me in my



vocational discernment, walking together with me, lifting me, and supporting me in my vocational growth and faith process."

"Vocation is a gift and a mystery," - Pope St. John Paul II. "It is a gift because it is God who gives it and a mystery. After all, He chooses whom He wants; no matter where a person comes from, He only chooses him, and sometimes we do not understand the why but for Whom. Answering does not take anything away; on the contrary, it multiplies it. I thought I was quitting and losing my profession, my country, my family and friends, and my culture when I agreed to come to El Paso. However, God has multiplied everything, and I feel glad and happy that I did. Responding to the vocation is to be satisfied; let us never forget that God does

not take away but gives everything when we respond with generosity. To anyone discerning, I say, don't be afraid of God; He is the ultimate happiness," said Allan.

In the catholic church, it is stated in the catechism that love is innate and the fundamental vocation every human being has. God created everything for man, but man in turn was created to serve and love God and to offer all creation back to Him.

While the ultimate work that God has called each of us to do is to build His kingdom, He is also calling us to bring value to humanity. Whatever you discern to do, always ask God to give you grace so that all your work brings glory and thanksgiving to Him.

"National Vocation Awareness Week will be celebrated in our

country November 5-11, 2023. Please pray to Our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women. That they may be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God's gift of vocation." - USCCB

Through your prayers and support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal, you support ministries that help young men and women answer God's call to a holy vocation. Your gifts help make the essential works of our Vocations Ministry possible. For more information or to donate, please contact Tina Edwards-Milam, Annual Appeal Director, at 915-872-8412, tedwards-milam@catholicfoundationelpaso.org or visit 2023progress-cma.org today.

An Exciting Time of Celebration for our Vocations

By Tina Edwards-Milam,
Annual Appeal Director

La Pastoral Vocacional Diocesana valora todas las vocaciones. Dios hace la llamada universal a una vida de santidad y servicio a todos los bautizados: solteros, casados, ordenados y consagrados. Extraordinariamente, la Pastoral Vocacional proporciona recursos y oportunidades de discernimiento que promueven y cultivan las vocaciones a la vida ordenada y consagrada.

El 16 de agosto de 2023, celebramos la gozosa ordenación de tres de nuestros seminaristas como Diáconos Transitorios, Anwar Camarena de Guadalajara, México, Luis Manuel Rodarte, Jr. de El Paso, Texas, y Alexander "Askee" Gutiérrez Rodríguez de Venezuela. Seguimos alegrándonos de darles la bienvenida a esta sagrada orden, a una vida de servicio, compasión y amor por todo el pueblo de Dios en nuestra hermosa ciudad de El Paso. Continuemos orando por ellos y deseándoles continuas bendiciones para ellos, sus familias y todos aquellos en donde sus vidas impactarán.

Otra inspiradora historia de fe, confianza y amor, el jueves 7 de

septiembre de 2023, el 17° Evento Anual de Fe de la Fundación Católica: Aquí estoy, Señor, se celebrará en el Centro de Eventos Starlight de 5 a 9 pm. El invitado de este año será el Padre Chase Hilgenbrinck, un jugador de fútbol americano que abandonó su carrera profesional para servir a Dios. Él comparte su historia acerca de confiar en la voluntad de Dios y lo que sucede después de que Dios llama a un atleta lejos de su deporte. El P. Chase te inspirará, motivará y conmovirá al compartir su testimonio de cómo respondió a la llamada de Dios al sacerdocio.

Cualquiera que sea el estado de vida al que Dios te llame, existe el compromiso de construir la sociedad de forma que refleje el amor de Dios. Se cree que cada persona ha sido creada con talentos y dones específicos que nos orientan hacia una determinada forma de vida.

Tuve la bendita oportunidad de sentarme a platicar con Allan Román, Seminarista, sobre su llamado a servir en las vocaciones. "Mi primer recuerdo de ser sacerdote fue cuando tenía alrededor de cuatro años, cuando escuché al P. Calderón cantar "El santo, santo, santo"; su voz

me impresionó tanto que juzgué imitarlo; es decir, jugué a dar misa, y así comenzó mi deseo de ser sacerdote, recordando aquel pasaje bíblico "desde el seno materno te llamo y te elijo". Otro elemento esencial en mi crecimiento vocacional es la figura de la Virgen María, bajo la advocación de Nuestra Señora de la Limpia Concepción de Ujarrás y del Papa San Juan Pablo II", dijo Allan.

Allan dijo: "De manera particular, la figura sacerdotal del P. Rolando Fonseca ha sido significativa ya que siempre me ha animado a avanzar en el discernimiento vocacional. Recuerdo cuando me dijo: "Nos lanzamos juntos al vacío, confiando en que al final, Dios nos estará esperando" Junto a él estaba el P. John Tellez, mi rector, que ha sido otra figura sacerdotal esencial y, sobre todo una luminaria en mi camino vocacional y de fe. Así, la oficina vocacional me ha ayudado en mi discernimiento vocacional, caminando junto a mí, levantándose y apoyándose en mi proceso de crecimiento vocacional y de fe."

"La vocación es un don y un misterio" - Papa San Juan Pablo II. "Es un don porque es Dios

quien la da y un misterio. Al fin y al cabo, Él elige a quien quiere; no importa de dónde venga una persona, Él sólo la elige, y a veces no entendemos el por qué sino para Quién. Responder no quita nada, al contrario, lo multiplica. Pensé que renunciaba y perdía mi profesión, mi país, mi familia y amigos, y mi cultura cuando acepté venir a El Paso. Sin embargo, Dios lo ha multiplicado todo, y me siento contento y feliz de haberlo hecho. Responder a la vocación es estar satisfecho; no olvidemos nunca que Dios no quita, sino que da todo cuando respondemos con generosidad. A cualquiera que esté discerniendo, les digo que no tengan miedo de Dios; Él es la felicidad suprema de todo", dijo Allan.

En la Iglesia católica se afirma en el catecismo que el amor es innato y la vocación fundamental que tiene todo ser humano. Dios creó todo para el hombre, pero el hombre a su vez fue creado para servir y amar a Dios y para ofrecerle toda la creación.

Aunque el trabajo último que Dios nos ha llamado a hacer a cada uno de nosotros es construir Su reino, también nos llama a aportar valor a la humanidad. Sea lo que sea lo que discernas

hacer, pide siempre a Dios que te dé gracia para que todo tu trabajo traiga gloria y acción de gracias a Él.

"La Semana Nacional de Concienciación Vocacional se celebrará en nuestro país del 5 al 11 de noviembre de 2023. Por favor, rueguen a Nuestro Señor por más sacerdotes, diáconos y consagrados dedicados y santos. Para que sean inspirados por Jesucristo, apoyados por nuestra comunidad de fe, y respondan generosamente al don de Dios de la vocación." - USCCB

A través de sus oraciones y su apoyo a la Campaña Católica para los Ministerios, usted apoya los ministerios que ayudan a los jóvenes a responder a la llamada de Dios a una vocación santa. Sus donaciones ayudan a hacer posible el trabajo esencial de nuestro Ministerio de vocaciones. Para obtener más información o para donar, póngase en contacto con Tina Edwards-Milam, directora de la Campaña Anual para los Ministerios, en el 915-872-8412, tedwards-milam@catholicfoundationelpaso.org o visite 2023progress-cma.org hoy.