

# SPECIAL BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

# RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

Vol. 31, No. 8

The Official Paper of the Diocese of El Paso

September 2022

## El Paso Catholic Schools Launches 2022-23 School Year

By Fernie Ceniceros

Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

The El Paso Catholic schools opened successfully for the 2022-23 school year on August 8, 2022. El Paso Catholic Schools number 11 total Pre-K-12 schools and hold a student enrollment of 2,226 as of August 24.

Catholic school teachers and administrators have worked diligently to ensure parents and students have a pleasant experience upon their return to the new school year.

"We try to make school a happy occasion," Principal of Most Holy Trinity Catholic School, Jim Horan, said. "We come out with enthusiasm so that our students and parents are excited," Horan said. "We want them to have the opinion that students are happy to be here and parents are happy to have their children in our school," Horan added.

In addition to offering quality education, El Paso Catholic schools provide the addition of spiritual and religious formation to the academic life of its students. Catholic schools in El Paso gather for weekly mass with their parish pastor or a priest from a neighboring parish.

Father Anthony Celino, Pastor of St. Raphael parish, explained the need for students to have a spiritual and religious formation accompany the student's academic life.

"The Mass is an important part of the spiritual formation for our students," Fr. Anthony Celino stated. "Not only do we work to give our students a quality education in the classroom, but also to live out a religious, educational experience that helps our students thrive throughout our school year," he added.

Principal of St. Raphael K-8 Catholic School Graciela Franco echoed Fr. Celino's commitment to providing students with a safe and spiritual environment.

"It's a very happy moment when we unite at Mass as one body once a week," Principal Franco said. "The Holy Spirit inspires us, and through Him and our weekly attendance at Mass, we strive to form and educate future generations of leaders grounded in faith and Gospel," Franco added.

Currently, El Paso Catholic Schools superintendent Dr. Lanny Hollis is working diligently along with pastors and administrators in the Catholic schools in



Pre-K Students at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Schools line up for lunch. The El Paso Catholic Schools number 11 total 3K-12 schools and hold a student enrollment of 2,226 as of August 24. *Photo by Emily Montelongo, Cheif Photographer, Rio Grande Catholic*

## Escuelas Católicas De El Paso Inicia El Ciclo Escolar 2022-23

Por Fernie Ceniceros

Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

Las escuelas católicas de El Paso abrieron con éxito el año escolar 2022-23 el 8 de agosto de 2022. Las escuelas católicas de El Paso cuentan con un total de 11 escuelas de preescolar a 12 años y tienen una matrícula de 2,226 estudiantes hasta el 24 de agosto.

Los maestros y administradores de las escuelas católicas han trabajado diligentemente para asegurar que los padres y los estudiantes tengan una experiencia agradable al regresar al nuevo año escolar.

"Intentamos que la escuela sea una ocasión feliz", dijo el director de la escuela católica Most Holy Trinity, Jim Horan. "Salimos con entusiasmo para que nuestros alumnos y padres estén entusiasmados", dijo Horan. "Queremos que tengan la opinión de que los estudiantes están contentos de estar aquí y los padres están contentos de tener a sus hijos en nuestra escuela", añadió Horan.

Además de ofrecer una educación de calidad, las escuelas católicas de El Paso añaden a la

vida académica de sus alumnos una formación espiritual y religiosa. Las escuelas católicas de El Paso se reúnen para celebrar una misa semanal con el párroco de su parroquia o con un sacerdote de una parroquia vecina.

El padre Anthony Celino, párroco de la parroquia de San Rafael, explicó la necesidad de que los alumnos tengan una formación espiritual y religiosa que acompañe la vida académica del estudiante.

"La misa es una parte importante de la formación espiritual para nuestros estudiantes", declaró el padre Anthony Celino. "No sólo trabajamos para dar a nuestros estudiantes una educación de calidad en el aula, sino también para vivir una experiencia religiosa y educativa que ayude a nuestros estudiantes a prosperar durante todo el año escolar", añadió.

La directora de la escuela católica St. Raphael K-8, Graciela Franco, se hizo eco del compromiso del padre Celino de proporcionar a los estudiantes un entorno seguro y espiritual.

"Es un momento muy feliz cuando nos unimos en la misa

como un solo cuerpo una vez a la semana", dijo la directora Franco. "El Espíritu Santo nos inspira, y a través de Él y de nuestra asistencia semanal a misa, nos esforzamos por formar y educar a las futuras generaciones de líderes cimentados en la fe y el Evangelio", añadió Franco.

Actualmente, el superintendente de las Escuelas Católicas de El Paso, Dr. Lanny Hollis, está trabajando diligentemente junto con los párrocos y administradores de las escuelas católicas de El Paso para asegurar que los estudiantes tengan un ambiente de aprendizaje seguro y de apoyo en su escuela.

"Este año, nos estamos esforzando por garantizar que los estudiantes estén seguros y protegidos en nuestras escuelas católicas", dijo el Dr. Hollis. "Este año queremos centrar el desarrollo de nuestro personal en las mejores prácticas para crear un entorno seguro para que los estudiantes puedan centrarse en sus estudios académicos y religiosos", añadió el Dr. Hollis.

El Dr. Hollis también ha trabajado para asegurar que las escuelas católicas de El Paso

cuenten con el personal necesario para cada plantel y expresó el compromiso del educador con las escuelas a las que sirve.

"Estoy encantado de que nuestras escuelas cuenten con el número correcto de personal para el número de estudiantes. El personal de nuestras escuelas católicas son educadores experimentados y basados en nuestra fe católica", dijo. "Somos muy afortunados de poder dotar de personal a nuestras escuelas según las necesidades, dado que las escuelas en otras partes del estado y del país están luchando por mantener los niveles de personal en las escuelas católicas", dijo Hollis.

"La dotación de personal adecuada permite a nuestros alumnos tener una escolarización presencial sin que se interrumpe mucho su educación", finalizó.

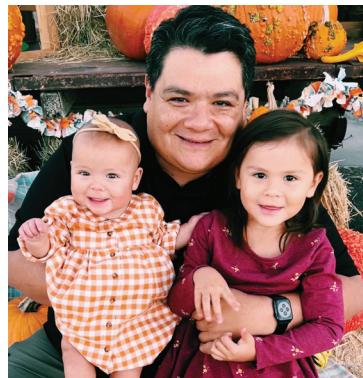
Si desea informarse sobre una educación en una escuela católica para su hijo o un estudiante en su vida, puede llamar al Dr. Lanny Hollis en la Oficina de Educación de la Diócesis de El Paso al 915) 872-8433, o puede enviar un correo electrónico: lhollis@elpasodiocese.org.

## EDITOR'S COLUMN - FERNIE CENICEROS

# The End Of A Journey

More or less about 10 years ago I did something that would be seem scary for a lot of people; I needed to find a therapist. In the middle of 2012, after having had one-to-many panic attacks to be considered just regular anxiety, Chrissy, who was my steady at the time, strongly suggested to me that I reach out for counseling. I would be lying to you all if I said I wasn't terrified. The stigma for looking for therapy for a mid 30's Mexican American male was very prevalent in my way of thinking back then. It wasn't something I was openly asking friends and family about. It wasn't like asking for a recommendation for a good plumber or a good hairstylist. In my mind, my task seemed insurmountable.

It had been suggested to me at the time that simple prayer



Fernie Ceniceros

would be the answer to my current string of panic attacks. This comes from having been raised in a good Mexican Catholic family. And of course, this isn't to say that to an extent prayer wasn't the answer to my issues. But the type of prayer that this

problem required was such that it asked of me to do more than just visit a Blessed Sacrament chapel and ask God for deliverance to my anxiety troubles. The answer to my prayers had to come from my external action, as all good prayer requires of us to do. A call to conversion. My call to conversion came in the form of finding a therapist that could help me with the issues I was dealing with at the time.

So to Google I went, and the first name that the computer spit out was that of my current therapist. To protect their identity and my counseling journey, we will call them D. D's picture was the first thing that just stuck with me. It was as if the photo itself was inviting me to call the office and set the appointment. "What's the worst that can happen?" I thought.

So I called the counseling office and set my first of many appointments with D. Before I knew it, with D's help, I conquered so many fears and anxieties. D's help was the answer to my prayers. Without D, I'm not entirely sure I would be here writing this article for you. D had an incredible impact on my current life. D helped me see that married life and fatherhood wasn't going to be scary. D helped me make amends with my past mistakes and regrets. D helped, full stop.

Recently, D informed me that they would be semi-retiring from their practice and that our time in counseling would soon come to an end. My emotions after hearing this news was not without its extremes. Sadness that this current counseling journey will come to an end, but sheer

happiness for D in their coming semi-retirement. This current chapter in my book of life is coming to an end.

So faithful reader, if you will indulge me, I want to say a few words to D, in my column.

D, let me take this opportunity to thank you. You were my call to action. God worked through you in your professionalism throughout my therapy journey. Annie, Evie, Chrissy and I are forever in your debt. Congratulations in your coming semi-retirement. I hope its filled with all you could have imagined and more. My prayers are always with you. Please, for the love of everything that is good in this world, have the extra bite of whatever sweet you are craving. You are a true blessing. Thank you!

## El Final De Un Viaje

Hace más o menos unos 10 años hice algo que le parecería aterradora a mucha gente; necesitaba encontrar un terapeuta. A mediados de 2012, después de haber tenido uno a muchos ataques de pánico para ser considerado sólo la ansiedad regular, Chrissy, que era mi constante en el momento, me sugirió fuertemente que llegar a la consejería. Os mentiría a todos si dijera que no estaba aterrizada. El estigma de buscar terapia para un hombre mexicano-americano de unos 30 años era muy frecuente en mi forma de pensar en aquel entonces. No era algo que yo preguntara abiertamente a mis amigos y a mi familia. No era como pedir una recomendación para un buen fontanero o un buen peluquero. En mi mente,

mi tarea parecía insuperable.

En aquel momento me sugirieron que una simple oración sería la respuesta a mi actual cadena de ataques de pánico. Esto viene de haber sido criado en una buena familia católica mexicana. Y por supuesto, esto no quiere decir que hasta cierto punto la oración no fuera la respuesta a mis problemas. Pero el tipo de oración que requería este problema era tal que me exigía algo más que visitar una capilla del Santísimo Sacramento y pedirle a Dios que liberara mis problemas de ansiedad. La respuesta a mis oraciones tenía que venir de mi acción externa, como toda buena oración requiere de nosotros. Una llamada a la conversión. Mi llamada a la conversión vino en forma de encontrar un terapeu-

ta que pudiera ayudarme con los problemas que tenía en ese momento.

Así que fui a Google, y el primer nombre que escupió el ordenador fue el de mi actual terapeuta. Para proteger su identidad y mi viaje de asesoramiento, lo llamaremos D. La foto de D fue lo primero que se me quedó grabado. Era como si la propia foto me invitara a llamar a la consulta y concertar la cita. "¿Qué es lo peor que puede pasar?", pensé.

Así que llamé a la oficina de asesoramiento y concerté mi primera de muchas citas con D. Antes de darme cuenta, con la ayuda de D, vencí muchos miedos y ansiedades. La ayuda de D fue la respuesta a mis plegarias. Sin D, no estoy del todo segura

de que estaría aquí escribiendo este artículo para ustedes. D tuvo un impacto increíble en mi vida actual. D me ayudó a ver que la vida de casado y la paternidad no iban a ser un miedo. D me ayudó a enmendar mis errores y arrepentimientos del pasado. D me ayudó, y punto.

Recientemente, D me informó de que iba a semirretirarse de su consulta y que nuestro tiempo de asesoramiento pronto llegaría a su fin. Mis emociones después de escuchar esta noticia no estaban exentas de extremos. Tristeza porque este viaje de asesoramiento actual llegará a su fin, pero pura felicidad por D en su próxima semi-retirada. Este capítulo actual en mi libro de la vida está llegando a su fin.

Así que fiel lector, si me per-

mites, quiero decir unas palabras a D, en mi columna.

D, déjame aprovechar esta oportunidad para darte las gracias. Tú fuiste mi llamada a la acción. Dios trabajó a través de ti en tu profesionalidad a lo largo de mi viaje terapéutico. Annie, Evie, Chrissy y yo estaremos siempre en deuda contigo. Felicidades en su próximo semi-retiro. Espero que esté lleno de todo lo que podrías haber imaginado y más. Mis oraciones están siempre contigo. Por favor, por el amor de todo lo que es bueno en este mundo, toma un bocado extra de cualquier dulce que se te antoje. Eres una verdadera bendición. Gracias.

# THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

Celebrating 31 Years serving the Diocese of El Paso

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[www.elpasodiocese.org](http://www.elpasodiocese.org)

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

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

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## INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH

# Christian Pilgrimage Is About More Than History

**A**s I write you this month's column I am on a bus with a group of 33 pilgrims on my way to Jerusalem from the north of the country of Israel, from Galilee. We began in Greece tracing the footsteps of St. Paul. Now we continue the Pilgrimage, tracing the footsteps of Jesus.

It is a moving experience to be in places in which you can say, "Here in this place Mary was visited by the angel." "Here he was born." "Here Jesus spoke in the Synagogue." "Here Jesus fed the multitude." "Here Jesus walked on the water." "Here Jesus died." "Here Jesus rose from the dead."

The word 'here' is significant because we are reminded that our Faith has its roots in real events that took place in a specific place at a specific time. It is not a fig-

ment of someone's imagination. It is not a fairy tale. God, who is beyond history, has entered into history...and it happened HERE!

I pray that God may grant each of you the opportunity one day to visit this holy place. One cannot visit this land without coming to a new perspective of our Faith.

As holy as these places may be and as valuable as the experience may be, these holy sites are not the primary places for our encounter with the living God who chose to dwell on earth. If we wish to encounter the God who chose to enter human history we do not need to travel to far off lands. While the Son of God entered the world in a particular place and time he did not intend to simply remain a distant memory locked into a fast-fading recollection.

The historical memory can only be kept alive by a living Faith in which we open our hearts to the God who still comes to save us, present in OUR place and time. The historical entry of Christ into the world set in motion our access to His presence wherever one may be. Since God is the Lord of time and space he is present in His glorified Body here and now and he comes to us in the Sacraments, in His Word, in the holy people of God and, in a special way, in the vulnerable and in the poor.

In these ways of encounter, if we enter into them with open loving hearts, we also become temples of the living God, bearers of Christ in our own time and space. Some false notions of humility should not prevent us from acknowledging this truth,



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

even despite our human frailty.

As St. Irenaeus of the Second Century famously proclaimed, "O Christian, remember your dignity!" Yes, remember your dignity, but also remember the dignity, and even the glory of every human being, created in the image and likeness of God and intended to be a temple of the living God!

It is essential for us Christians to remember our origins in history, but even more important that we discover the Son of God present and active here and now in our lives.

It is good to be back among you, holy people of God!

## La Peregrinación Cristiana Es Algo Más Que Historia

**M**ientras les escribo la columna de este mes, me encuentro en un autobús con un grupo de 33 peregrinos de camino a Jerusalén desde el norte del país de Israel, desde Galilea. Comenzamos en Grecia siguiendo las huellas de San Pablo. Ahora continuamos la peregrinación, siguiendo las huellas de Jesús.

Es una experiencia conmovedora estar en lugares en los que puedes decir: "Aquí, en este lugar, María fue visitada por el ángel". "Aquí nació". "Aquí Jesús habló en la Sinagoga". "Aquí Jesús alimentó a la multitud". "Aquí Jesús caminó sobre las aguas". "Aquí murió Jesús". "Aquí Jesús resucitó de entre los muertos".

La palabra "aqui" es significativa porque se nos recuerda que nuestra Fe tiene sus raíces en hechos reales que tuvieron lugar en un lugar específico en un momento específico. No es un producto de la imaginación de alguien. No es un cuento de hadas. Dios, que está más allá de la historia, ha entrado en la historia... ¡y ocurrió AQUÍ!

Rezo para que Dios les conceda a cada uno de ustedes la oportunidad de visitar un día este lugar sagrado. Uno no puede visitar esta tierra sin llegar a una nueva perspectiva de nuestra Fe.

Por muy santos que sean estos lugares y por muy valiosa que sea la experiencia, estos lugares santos no son los lugares principales para nuestro encuentro con el Dios vivo que eligió habitar en la tierra. Si queremos encontrarnos con el Dios que eligió entrar en la historia de la humanidad, no necesitamos viajar a tierras lejanas. Aunque el Hijo de Dios entró en el mundo en un lugar y un tiempo determinados, no pretendía quedarse simplemente en un recuerdo lejano encerrado en una memoria que se desvanece rápidamente.

La memoria histórica sólo puede mantenerse viva mediante una Fe viva en la que abramos nuestros corazones al Dios



Bishop Mark Seitz standing on the Areopagus in Athens, below the Parthenon, where Paul spoke to the philosophers in mid August of 2022.  
Photo courtesy Bishop Mark Seitz.

que todavía viene a salvarnos, presente en NUESTRO lugar y tiempo. La entrada histórica de Cristo en el mundo puso en marcha nuestro acceso a su presencia allí donde estemos. Puesto que Dios es el Señor del tiempo y del espacio, está presente en su Cuerpo glorificado aquí y ahora, y viene a nosotros en los Sacramentos, en su Palabra, en el

pueblo santo de Dios y, de manera especial, en los vulnerables y en los pobres.

En estas formas de encuentro, si entramos en ellas con un corazón abierto y amoroso, nos convertimos también en templos del Dios vivo, portadores de Cristo en nuestro propio tiempo y espacio. Una falsa noción de humildad no debería impedirnos

reconocer esta verdad, incluso a pesar de nuestra fragilidad humana.

Como proclamó célebremente San Ireneo del siglo II: "¡Oh, cristiano, recuerda tu dignidad!". Sí, recuerda tu dignidad, pero también recuerda la dignidad, e incluso la gloria de todo ser humano, creado a imagen y semejanza de Dios y destinado a

ser templo del Dios vivo.

Es esencial que los cristianos recordemos nuestros orígenes en la historia, pero aún más importante es que descubramos al Hijo de Dios presente y activo aquí y ahora en nuestras vidas.

¡Es bueno estar de nuevo entre vosotros, pueblo santo de Dios!

# El Paso Catholic Schools Enter 2022-23 School Year



Students at St. Joseph's School ready to begin their day in their classroom, sorting through their new books and desks. *Photo by Emily Montelongo*



A student at St. Raphael Catholic School listens intently to Fr. Anthony Celino during the Homily.. *Photo by Emily Montelongo*



Fr. Antony Celino addresses the students of St. Raphael's Catholic School during their first school mass. Students at St. Raphael Catholic School attend Mass weekly. *Photo by Emily Montelongo*



A student at Most Holy Trinity Catholic School writes his name on his newly assigned notebook. *Photo by Emily Montelongo*

**- Schools" continued from page 1**

El Paso to ensure students have a safe and supportive learning environment in their school.

"This year, we are striving to ensure students are safe and secure in our Catholic schools," Dr. Hollis said. "We are looking

to focus our staff development this year on best practices to create a safe environment so students can focus on their academic and religious studies," Dr. Hollis added.

Dr. Hollis has also worked to ensure that El Paso Catholic schools are staffed to each campus's needs and expressed the

educator's commitment to the schools they serve.

"I am thrilled that our schools are staffed with the correct number of staff to the number of students. Our Catholic school staff are experienced educators grounded in our Catholic faith," he said. "We are very fortunate to be able to staff our schools

as needed given that schools in other parts of the state and the country are struggling to maintain levels of staffing in Catholic schools," Hollis said. "The appropriate staffing allows our students to have in-person schooling without much interruption to their education," he ended.

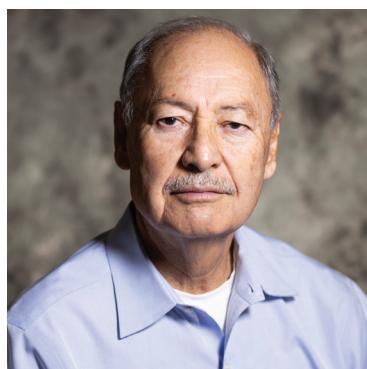
If you would like to inquire about a Catholic school education for your child or a student in your life, you can call Dr. Lanny Hollis at the Office of Education at the Diocese of El Paso at 915) 872-8433, or you can email: lhollis@elpasodiocese.org.

## Deacon Carlos Rubio appointed Interim Director of UTEP Catholic Ministry

**By Fernie Ceniceros**  
*Editor, Rio Grande Catholic*

Bishop Mark Seitz has appointed Deacon Carlos Rubio as the interim director of the University of Texas at El Paso Catholic Campus ministry.

Deacon Rubio, who has served the Diocese of El Paso since 2008 has worked in various parishes within the diocese over the last 14 years, most recently as one of 2 parish deacons at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in the Lower Valley of



**Deacon Carlos Rubio**

El Paso.

Fr. Benjamin Flores-Ruiz, Vicar General and moderator of the Curia, expressed his hope in Deacon Rubio being named the interim director of the UTEP Catholic Campus Ministry.

"We are very hopeful for Deacon Rubio to take over the role of interim director of the Catholic Campus Ministry," Fr. Flores said. "Deacon Rubio is very excited to take on this new ministry and is very capable and familiar with the needs of the church as well as the

needs of the young students he will minister to," he added.

Deacon Rubio spoke to the need for students to be able to find a home away from home within the walls of the Catholic Campus Ministry.

"I hope the students can consider Catholic Campus ministry as a home away from their home parish," Deacon Rubio said. "I hope they can become comfortable enough to express their Catholic faith with their fellow students throughout the school year. I will work hard

to ensure that students will have a place where they can experience God's presence and a place where they can work through their academic careers with our Catholic faith at the center of their lives," he ended.

Deacon Rubio will take over as the interim director of Catholic Campus Ministry in mid-August.

## El Diácono Carlos Rubio Es Nombrado Director Interino De La Pastoral Católica De UTEP

**Por Fernie Ceniceros**  
*Editor, Rio Grande Catholic*

El obispo Mark Seitz ha nombrado al diácono Carlos Rubio como director interino del ministerio del campus católico de la Universidad de Texas en El Paso.

El diácono Rubio, quien ha servido a la Diócesis de El Paso desde 2008, ha trabajado en varias parroquias dentro de la diócesis durante los últimos 14 años, más

recientemente como uno de los 2 diáconos de la parroquia de Corpus Christi Catholic Church en el Valle Bajo de El Paso.

El Padre Benjamín Flores-Ruiz, Vicario General y moderador de la Curia, expresó su esperanza en que el Diácono Rubio sea nombrado director interino del Ministerio Católico del Campus de UTEP.

"Estamos muy esperanzados en que el diácono Rubio asuma

el papel de director interino de la Pastoral Universitaria Católica", dijo el P. Flores. "El diácono Rubio está muy entusiasmado por asumir este nuevo ministerio y es muy capaz y está familiarizado con las necesidades de la iglesia, así como las necesidades de los jóvenes estudiantes a los que atenderá", agregó.

El diácono Rubio habló de la necesidad de que los estudiantes puedan encontrar un hogar fuera

de casa dentro de las paredes del Ministerio Católico del Campus.

"Espero que los estudiantes puedan considerar la Pastoral Universitaria Católica como un hogar lejos de su parroquia", dijo el diácono Rubio. "Espero que puedan sentirse lo suficientemente cómodos como para expresar su fe católica con sus compañeros durante el año escolar. Trabajare duro para asegurar que los estudiantes tengan un lugar donde

puedan experimentar la presencia de Dios y un lugar donde puedan trabajar a través de sus carreras académicas con nuestra fe católica en el centro de sus vidas", terminó.

El diácono Rubio asumirá el cargo de director interino de la Pastoral Universitaria Católica a mediados de agosto.

# Office of the Permanent Diaconate holds Annual Golf Tournament

By Fernie Ceniceros  
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

The Office of the Ministry for the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of El Paso held their annual "Golf for Good" golf tournament at the Painted Dunes golf course in Northeast El Paso in mid-August.

The annual "Golf for Good" golf tournament is a fundraiser that benefits the diocese's diaconate candidate's education and formation.

"The Deacon candidates in the program go through formation, which requires textbooks, schooling, etc.," Deacon Andy Ruvalcaba said. "They end up getting a master's degree at the end of their formation, so the proceeds of this golf tournament help partially pay for their schooling and any books or materials that go toward their formation," Deacon Ruvalcaba said.

Earlier this year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops surveyed 138 dioceses and archdioceses. The USCCB estimates 14,586 active permanent deacons in the United



The Office of the Ministry for the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of El Paso held their annual "Golf for Good" golf tournament at the Painted Dunes golf course in Northeast El Paso in mid-August. The golf tournament had a total of 124 players enrolled and projected to make upwards of \$13,000. **Photo by Emily Montelongo**

States, 44 of which are currently serving the Diocese of El Paso. Currently, the diocese has 23 candidates for the permanent

Diaconate and expects ordination to the Office of the Diaconate in the diocese by 2025.

The golf tournament had a

total of 124 players enrolled and projected to make upwards of \$13,000. Deacon Alfonso Sandoval recalls the idea of creating

a golf tournament to benefit the candidates for the permanent Diaconate.

"A couple of us deacons, back when we were candidates, were playing golf one day, and the idea came up to create a tournament that would help," Deacon Sandoval said. "The diocese pays for two-thirds of the candidate's education, and the candidates have to pay for a third of it, so these funds help support the candidates during their formation," Deacon Sandoval added.

Deacon Sandoval explained that this particular golf tournament features the unique aspect of not being too competitive, unlike like other tournaments he has played in the past. Instead, players come out to benefit a good cause and enjoy time together playing golf.

"It's just a friendly competition. It's all about having fun. And that's been what's differentiated us from other tournaments," Deacon Sandoval said. "There are probably more competitive golf tournaments, but ours is really about having fun and enjoying the day out, playing golf," Deacon ended.

## La Oficina del Diaconado Permanente realiza el Torneo Anual de Golf

By Fernie Ceniceros  
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

La Oficina del Ministerio para el Diaconado Permanente de la Diócesis de El Paso celebró su torneo anual de golf "Golf for Good" en el campo de golf Painted Dunes en el noreste de El Paso a mediados de agosto.

El torneo anual de golf "Golf for Good" es una recaudación de fondos que beneficia a la educación y formación de los candidatos al diaconado de la diócesis.

"Los candidatos al diaconado en el programa pasan por la formación, que requiere libros de texto, escolarización, etc.", dijo el diácono Andy Ruvalcaba. "Terminan obteniendo una maestría al final de su formación, por lo que las ganancias de este torneo de golf ayudan a pagar parcialmente su escolaridad y cualquier libro o material que vaya hacia su formación", dijo el diácono Ruvalcaba.

A principios de este año, la Conferencia Episcopal de Estados Unidos realizó una encuesta en 138 diócesis y archidiócesis. La USCCB calcula que hay 14,586 diáconos permanentes activos



La Oficina del Ministerio para el Diaconado Permanente de la Diócesis de El Paso celebró su torneo anual de golf "Golf for Good" en el campo de golf Painted Dunes en el noreste de El Paso a mediados de agosto. El torneo de golf contó con un total de 124 jugadores inscritos y se proyectó una recaudación de más de 13,000 dólares. **Foto por Emily Montelongo**

en los Estados Unidos, de los cuales 44 sirven actualmente a la diócesis de El Paso. Actualmente, la diócesis tiene 23 candidatos al

Diaconado permanente y espera la ordenación al Oficio del Diaconado en la diócesis para el 2025.

El torneo de golf tuvo un total

de 124 jugadores inscritos y se proyectó una recaudación de más de 13,000 dólares. El diácono Alfonso Sandoval recuerda la

idea de crear un torneo de golf a beneficio de los candidatos al Diaconado permanente.

"Un par de diáconos, cuando éramos candidatos, estábamos jugando al golf un día, y surgió la idea de crear un torneo que ayudara", dijo el diácono Sandoval. "La diócesis paga dos tercios de la educación del candidato, y los candidatos tienen que pagar un tercio, así que estos fondos ayudan a mantener a los candidatos durante su formación", añadió el diácono Sandoval.

El diácono Sandoval explicó que este torneo de golf en particular tiene el aspecto único de no ser demasiado competitivo, no como otros torneos que ha jugado en el pasado. En su lugar, los jugadores acuden para beneficiar a una buena causa y disfrutar de un tiempo juntos jugando al golf.

"Es una competición amistosa. Se trata de divertirse. Y eso ha sido lo que nos ha diferenciado de otros torneos", dijo Deacon Sandoval. "Probablemente hay torneos de golf más competitivos, pero el nuestro se trata realmente de divertirse y disfrutar del día, jugando al golf", finalizó el Diacono.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

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# Sister Nancy Murray Brings Celebrated One-Woman Play To El Paso

**EL PASO, TEXAS** - Centro Santa Catalina announced that Sister Nancy Murray, OP, will perform her celebrated one-woman play, "Saint Catherine of Siena: A Woman For Our Times," at the Loretto Academy Little Theater, 1300 Hardaway Drive, El Paso, Texas 79903, on Sept. 10, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

Sister Nancy Murray, who has performed her play for audiences around the world, is the sister of actor Bill Murray. She entered the Adrian Dominicans in 1966

and earned a bachelor's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University in Chicago.

The proceeds from the performance will benefit Centro de Santa Catalina, a Juárez, Mexico-based non-profit organization whose mission is to aid impoverished women and children.

Centro de Santa Catalina is named after Saint Catherine of Siena who was a lay Dominican woman in 1366. As a young girl, she experienced visions that led her to helping the sick and poor

of Siena. In 1939, she was declared the patron saint of Italy. In 1970, she was given the title of Doctor of the Church, a title that very few women hold.

A reception and silent auction will be held on the patio outside of the theater following Sister Nancy Murray's performance. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by calling the Centro de Santa Catalina office at (915) 227-5113. For further assistance, contact Gloria Yanez at (915) 474-2034 or Bea Chavez at (915)

329-8513.

*Centro de Santa Catalina was founded in 1996 by Sisters Donna Kustusch and Eleanor Stech. It is located in Ciudad Juárez on a former municipal garbage dump. The first successful project was the establishment of a sewing cooperative in 1997, which produces a variety of textile products and accessories made from Mexican fabric that are sold mostly in the U.S. at conferences, bazaars, parishes, at the Centro de Santa Catalina shop inside*

*the Loretto Academy, and online at <https://centrodesantacatalina.org>. Sisters Donna and Eleanor OP; Elizabeth (Libby) Pepe, OSF; Rose Ann Schlitt OP; Rene Weeks OP, Fran Hicks OSF; and Maureen Gallagher OP have guided the mission of Centro de Santa Catalina over the years. Currently, Rosa Elida Villela Hernandez serves as Director of Centro de Santa Catalina.*

## La hermana Nancy Murray trae a El Paso su célebre obra unipersonal

**EL PASO, TEXAS** - El Centro Santa Catalina anunció que la hermana Nancy Murray, OP, representará su célebre obra en solitario, "Santa Catalina de Siena: Una mujer para nuestro tiempo", en el Pequeño Teatro de la Academia Loretto, 1300 Hardaway Drive, El Paso, Texas 79903, el 10 de septiembre de 2022, a las 4:00 p.m.

La hermana Nancy Murray, que ha representado su obra para el público de todo el mundo, es la hermana del actor Bill Murray. Ingresó en las Dominicas de

Adrian en 1966 y obtuvo una licenciatura en estudios pastorales en la Universidad de Loyola en Chicago.

La recaudación de la representación se destinará al Centro de Santa Catalina, una organización sin ánimo de lucro con sede en Juárez (Méjico) cuya misión es ayudar a las mujeres y los niños pobres.

El Centro de Santa Catalina lleva el nombre de Santa Catalina de Siena, que fue una mujer laica dominicana en 1366. De joven tuvo visiones que la llevaron a

ayudar a los enfermos y pobres de Siena. En 1939 fue declarada patrona de Italia. En 1970, se le concedió el título de Doctora de la Iglesia, un título que poseen muy pocas mujeres.

Tras la actuación de la hermana Nancy Murray, se celebrará una recepción y una subasta silenciosa en el patio exterior del teatro. Las entradas cuestan 30 dólares y pueden adquirirse llamando a la oficina del Centro de Santa Catalina al (915) 227-5113. Para más ayuda, póngase en contacto con Gloria Yanez

en el (915) 474-2034 o con Bea Chavez en el (915) 329-8513.

El Centro de Santa Catalina fue fundado en 1996 por las hermanas Donna Kustusch y Eleanor Stech. Está ubicado en Ciudad Juárez en un antiguo basurero municipal. El primer proyecto exitoso fue el establecimiento de una cooperativa de costura en 1997, que produce una variedad de productos textiles y accesorios hechos de tela mexicana que se venden principalmente en los Estados Unidos en conferencias, bazares,

parroquias, en la tienda del Centro de Santa Catalina dentro de la Academia Loretto, y en línea en <https://centrodesantacatalina.org>. Las hermanas Donna y Eleanor OP; Elizabeth (Libby) Pepe, OSF; Rose Ann Schlitt OP; Rene Weeks OP, Fran Hicks OSF; y Maureen Gallagher OP han guiado la misión del Centro de Santa Catalina a lo largo de los años. Actualmente, Rosa Elida Villela Hernández es la directora del Centro de Santa Catalina.

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For Our Times"**

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2022**

**Loretto Academy  
Little Theater  
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El Paso, Texas 79903**

**Performance  
4:00 - 5:30 P.M.**

# My Summer Serving Migrants In The Diocesan Shelter

**By Vicente Cobos**  
Seminarian, Diocese of El Paso

This summer I had the opportunity to work at the Martyrs Migrant Shelter, the shelter of our Diocese of El Paso. I have to be honest and say that at the beginning I did not know what to expect. I lived a one-week experience at Tucson Arizona at the Kino Border Initiative last year where we learned more about the lifestyle of migrants. Before this, I had worked with migrants before but just in a limited way. I volunteered with them six years ago whenever I received an invitation from a parishioner to go and help them. At this time, I could tell you that I felt very uncomfortable since I didn't know how to help migrants. However, I didn't give up, so I continued assisting to help them. I learned that sometimes individuals just need to be accompanied where the "healing of words" sometimes is not necessary.

Secondly, this opportunity with the migrants has taught me hope for the future. I say this since I have seen the Face of God in our brother and sister migrants. Their resilience, endurance, and perseverance are outstanding. Sometimes I ask myself, how many of us would leave our family, culture, language, and traditions in order to go to another place where we don't know what it awaits us. The migrants we receive are waiting for a court

date in which their asylum case will be decided. They fled their countries because of persecution, violence, lack of education, lack of work, lack of access to health care among other determinants that threatened the human dignity and well-being of the individual. Most of the time this was a forced migration due to the serious circumstances where people left everything behind to come to try to the U.S.

The most impactful experience for me was the love carried out in each of the families of our brother and sister migrants. Migrants are individuals, usually with an education background, who have the desire to escape their difficult circumstances to common work, to contribute a new country and to grow together. The children are the ones who do not understand what is happening, but they trust in their parents, and they abandon themselves in their hands. Concerning the parents that I met, I recall what one of them told me: "The first thing I'll do arriving at my destination place is look for a school for my daughter." Another person told me, "I will find a job as soon as possible." "I want to live in a peaceful environment, where I am not afraid of being robbed." "I hope for a better future for my family." "I just want to live a normal life". "I want the best for my children". Whenever you hear them talk like this, what comes to mind is "Human



Dignity".

Human dignity as described by the Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 357 is "Being created in the image of God, the human individual possesses the dignity of the person, who is not just something but someone". In addition, every migrant is a living testimony of resilience where they flee danger to seek something better. This occurs since it is within our rights to seek something more appealing,

more stable, more just for our lives. The migrants have renewed my hope for a better future, for pursuing greater expectations and with not being satisfying with what the reality is. I have to say that their action to coming to the U.S. and seeking safety and a better life resonates with the concept that is mostly threatened today which known as "human dignity".

I am grateful for this opportunity given and I also want to

thank Bishop Mark Seitz and Mr. Marco Raposo for all their help towards the center. Lastly but not least thanks to all the volunteers that make this assistance possible and put into practice the good news of the Gospel. Please pray for this our brother and sister migrants for their journey and for everyone making this possible.

God bless you. Best wishes.  
Vicente Cobos Alvarado.

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## God speaks to his people and nourishes them in the Liturgy of the Word



Fr. Michael Lewis, STL

Last month, we began our exploration of the parts of the Mass with a look at the Introductory Rites. They establish communion among those assembled for the celebration, and properly dispose us to be nourished by Christ—in his Word and in his Body—during the two main parts of the Mass: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The Liturgy of the Word comprises the proclamation of readings from Scripture, the homily that explains them, and the assembly's profession of faith (usually through the recitation of the Creed). It culminates with the Prayer of the Faithful, where “the people pour out their petitions ... for the needs of the whole Church and for the salvation of the whole world,” as the *Roman*

*Missal* explains.

It's hard to overstate the importance of the readings in the celebration of the Mass, for they are where God himself speaks to his people, as the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* reminds us. For this reason, the council fathers at Vatican II decreed that “the treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God’s Word.” The liturgical reforms that followed drastically increased the amount of the Bible that people hear at Mass.

Today, we hear three readings at Mass on Sundays, not including the Responsorial Psalm. The first reading during most of the year comes from the Old Testament. The second reading is from the New Testament, and most of the time is from one of the epistles, or letters. These two readings are proclaimed by a lector. The third reading is always from one of the gospels and is proclaimed by a priest or a deacon.

The readings are proclaimed from a ritual book called the

*Lectionary*, which conveniently contains just the Scripture passages prescribed for each particular day. The arrangement of the readings was carefully planned to provide the faithful “with a knowledge of the whole of God’s Word” and “an ever-deepening perception of the faith they profess and of the history of salvation,” the *Lectionary* says.

Though during the special liturgical seasons (like Advent, Lent and Easter), you'll typically hear the same thematically apt readings each year (and often from the Gospel of John), on Sundays the *Lectionary* follows a three-year cycle, each year focusing on one of the synoptic gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Each gospel is read more or less sequentially week-to-week during Ordinary Time, a practice called *lectio continua*. The Sundays in September, for example, we'll conclude Chapter 14 of the Gospel of Luke and continue straight through to the middle of Chapter 17, skipping only a few verses here and there.

The first reading and psalm usually match topically to the

gospel or are referenced by the gospel reading. However, because the second reading is often arranged sequentially, it doesn't always match thematically to the other readings. This month, for example, we'll be hearing from Paul's letters to Timothy, which only sometimes relate to the gospel and first reading.

The proclamation of the gospel is the “high point of the Liturgy of the Word,” because it contains the words and actions of Christ that are the heart of our faith. Acknowledging Christ’s presence in his Word, we accord the gospel reading special honor by standing during its proclamation, by singing an acclamation before it (“Alleluia” during most of the year), and by reverencing it with a kiss, like we do the altar.

The readings are then explained by the homily, a “living commentary” on the Word, whose aim is to aid the faithful to “hold fast in their lives to what they have grasped by faith,” the *Lectionary* explains. Because a homily springs forth from the Scripture just proclaimed, it differs from a sermon, which can

be on any topic.

The assembly then responds to the readings and the homily by confessing their faith, reciting one of two creeds from the earliest centuries of the Church. They continue their response in the Prayer of the Faithful, when they exercise their baptismal priesthood through prayers of intercession for the benefit of the whole Church and indeed the whole world.

Through the assembly’s reverent listening to the Word proclaimed and their subsequent response in faith, they participate fully in the Liturgy of the Word. Thus instructed and refreshed at the table of God’s Word, they are ready to be nourished anew at the table of Christ’s Body during the Liturgy of the Eucharist which follows.

## Dios habla a su pueblo y lo alimenta en la Liturgia de la Palabra

El mes pasado, comenzamos nuestra exploración de las partes de la Misa con una mirada a los Ritos Iniciales. Éstos establecen la comunión entre los reunidos para la celebración, y nos disponen adecuadamente para ser alimentados por Cristo —en su Palabra y en su Cuerpo— durante las dos partes principales de la Misa: la Liturgia de la Palabra y la Liturgia de la Eucaristía.

La Liturgia de la Palabra comprende la proclamación de las lecturas de la Escritura, la homilía que las explica y la profesión de fe de la asamblea (normalmente mediante la recitación del Credo). Culmina con la Oración de los Fieles, en la que el pueblo “hace súplicas por las necesidades de la Iglesia entera y por la salvación de todo el mundo”, como explica el *Misal Romano*.

Es difícil exagerar la importancia de las lecturas en la celebración de la Misa, pues en ellas Dios mismo habla a su pueblo, como recuerda la *Constitución sobre la Sagrada Liturgia*. Por esta razón, los padres conciliares del Vaticano II decretaron, “A fin

de que la mesa de la palabra de Dios se prepare con más abundancia para los fieles ábranse con mayor amplitud los tesoros de la Biblia”. Las reformas litúrgicas que siguieron aumentaron drásticamente la cantidad de Biblia que se escucha en la misa.

En la actualidad, los domingos escuchamos tres lecturas en la misa, sin incluir el Salmo Responsorial. La primera lectura, durante la mayor parte del año, procede del Antiguo Testamento. La segunda lectura es del Nuevo Testamento, y la mayoría de las veces es de una de las epístolas o cartas. Estas dos lecturas son proclamadas por un lector. La tercera lectura es siempre de uno de los evangelios y la proclama un sacerdote o un diácono.

Las lecturas se proclaman a partir de un libro ritual llamado *Leccionario*, que contiene convenientemente sólo los pasajes de la Escritura prescritos para cada día en particular. La organización de las lecturas fue cuidadosamente planificada para proporcionar a los fieles “el conocimiento de toda la palabra

de Dios” y una percepción más profunda de “la fe que profesan y la historia de la salvación”, dice el *Leccionario*.

Aunque durante los tiempos litúrgicos especiales (como el Adviento, la Cuaresma y la Pascua), normalmente se escuchan las mismas lecturas temáticas cada año (y a menudo del Evangelio de Juan), los domingos el *Leccionario* sigue un ciclo de tres años, cada uno de los cuales se centra en uno de los evangelios sinópticos: Mateo, Marcos y Lucas. Cada evangelio se lee más o menos secuencialmente semana a semana durante el Tiempo Ordinario, una práctica llamada *lectio continua*. Los domingos de septiembre, por ejemplo, concluiremos el capítulo 14 del Evangelio de Lucas y continuaremos directamente hasta la mitad del capítulo 17, saltando sólo algunos versículos aquí y allá.

La primera lectura y el salmo suelen coincidir con el evangelio o están referidos a la lectura del evangelio. Sin embargo, como la segunda lectura suele estar disposta de forma secuencial, no

siempre coincide temáticamente con las otras lecturas. Este mes, por ejemplo, escucharemos las cartas de Pablo a Timoteo, que sólo a veces se relacionan con el evangelio y la primera lectura.

La proclamación del Evangelio “constituye el culmen de la Liturgia de la Palabra”, porque contiene las palabras y acciones de Cristo que son el corazón de nuestra fe. Reconociendo la presencia de Cristo en su Palabra, concedemos a la lectura del evangelio un honor especial poniéndonos de pie durante su proclamación, cantando una aclamación ante ella (“Aleluya”) durante la mayor parte del año) y reverenciándola con un beso, como hacemos con el altar.

A continuación, las lecturas son explicadas por la homilía, un “comentario vivo” de la Palabra, cuyo objetivo es ayudar a los fieles a “vivir siempre de acuerdo con la fe que profesaron”, explica el *Leccionario*. Como la homilía surge de la Escritura recién proclamada, se diferencia del sermón, que puede versar sobre cualquier tema.

A continuación, la asamblea responde a las lecturas y a la homilía confesando su fe, recitando uno de los dos credos de los primeros siglos de la Iglesia. Continúan su respuesta en la Oración de los Fieles, cuando ejercen su sacerdocio bautismal mediante oraciones de intercesión en beneficio de toda la Iglesia y, de hecho, de todo el mundo.

A través de la escucha reverente de la Palabra proclamada por la asamblea y su posterior respuesta de fe, participan plenamente en la Liturgia de la Palabra. Así, instruidos y refrescados en la mesa de la Palabra de Dios, están preparados para ser alimentados de nuevo en la mesa del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo durante la Liturgia de la Eucaristía que sigue.

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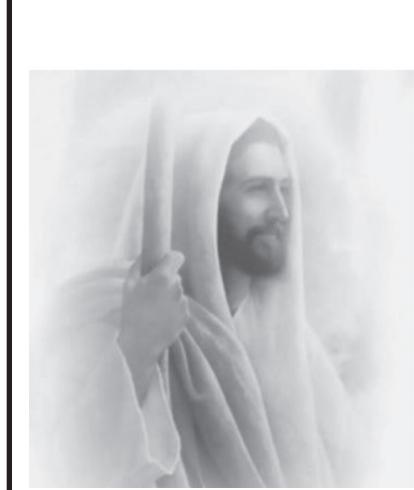
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## SIDEWALK JESUS



## Janet M. Crowe

This is my favorite time of the year when days become a bit cooler and the leaves begin to change colors. The school year is still young enough to hold excitement for both students and teachers anticipating the joy of learning new things. The major holidays are just over the horizon but don't demand too much of our time, energy or money to deem them successful – yet. That will come soon enough, but for now we can simply look forward to a bit of relaxation before the rush.

With that in mind, I turn the page of the calendar to this month while trying to resist the temptation to count the weeks left before Christmas. Seeing the feast day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary listed on September eighth, exactly nine months after the December eighth Holy Day commemorating Mary's Immaculate Conception, sends all thoughts of shopping

from my mind and fills me with a happy memory.

It was on a day early in the school year that I picked up our daughter from the Catholic school near our home, and I was surprised to see all the children carrying cupcakes and balloons. My sweet daughter joyfully exclaimed that they had celebrated Mary's birthday during class. I looked around at all the happy children and asked which one was Mary. The teacher tried to catch my eye, but my daughter just shook her head. "No, Mama," she informed her muddle-brained parent, "you know, Mary, she's the mother of Jesus. It's Mary's birthday today." Since that day, I've never forgotten the date the Church traditionally celebrates Mary's birthday, and it always makes me laugh at how our children must patiently teach us parents about the important things in life.

Still smiling from the memory, I scan the calendar and notice more notable dates about our Blessed Mother – the feast days of the Most Holy Name of Mary on the twelfth and Our Lady of Sorrows on the fifteenth of September and then Our Lady of the Rosary on October seventh.

Acknowledging these feast days for our Blessed Mother, with appropriate recognition

of her love and significance or even with only a smile or a quick prayer, helps us to become closer to her and to her holy Son. However, as a parent, as a mother, I know that these days also honor the blessing that God bestows on all parents.

What parent does not fill his or her days, and especially nights, with prayers for the protection of their children? What parent is not reminded on a constant basis of the key moments in a child's life – the discovery of being pregnant with new life, the child's birth, the young adult's departure for college or a new job, and all the hardships and the wonders that the child experiences? What parent's heart is not pierced with pain and sorrow over each and every hurt, whether a scraped knee or a broken heart, that their child endures? Of course, I am not comparing our lives as parents with the life of the Blessed Mother of our Savior, but God does bless every parent with both joy and sorrow. Fortunately, the joys far outweigh the pains, and Mary and her Son are ever at our sides to help us through the tough times and to rejoice with us in both the milestones and the everyday delights of experiencing life through the eyes of our children.

As a parent of grown children,

I look back at days from years past and inwardly smile at some of the adventures and even mis-haps of those times. Several of those days make me wonder how Mary would respond.

Whether it is today or in Biblical times, we are often categorized or labeled with different titles – rabbi, disciple, accountant, teacher, secretary, mechanic, store clerk, school volunteer, parishioner, and many others – usually associated with what we do rather than who we are. In the same way, I think about the upcoming feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary and wonder about the beautiful Litany of Loretto which offers many titles for Our Lady. Two of my favorite titles for Mary are Theotokos, meaning God-bearer, and Ark of the Covenant. She carried within her womb the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the Incarnate Word of the covenant between Almighty God and mankind. What better title could there be! However, I doubt if either of those are Mary's favorite descriptions.

As I think back on the titles I have earned during my own life, I can immediately name the one that brought me the most joy and satisfaction and it certainly wasn't any award that I might have won. Mama, Mommy, Mom, Mother. Even after my

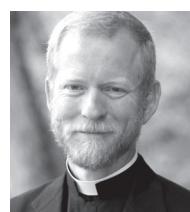
children have grown up to be wonderful adults, Mama is the title that still makes my heart sing with joy. I'd be willing to bet that Mary would agree that each time Jesus called her His Mother, it was her favorite identity.

Involving oneself in the lives of children, whether as parents, aunts, uncles, or volunteer helpers, enriches our lives because God blesses the world more abundantly through the insights of children than through any career, no matter how noble, that any adult might have.

Admittedly, life as an adult can be rather routine, but recalling all the ways that children open our eyes and our hearts to the wonders of the world will certainly bring color and sparkle to our sometimes staid existence. Growing up and growing old are two vastly different concepts. I prefer to remain childlike by emulating my children and enjoying every day with which the Lord deigns to bless me. Thank you, Lord, for blessing me with precious children to teach me Your ways!

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

## Homosexual Men and Chaste Friendships



**Fr. Tad Pacholczyk**  
Catholic men facing same-sex attractions often struggle with how they are supposed to handle their homoromantic feelings. Some clearly understand that the Church invites them to order their feelings and attractions through a life of chaste continence, but they also wrestle with a strong desire for same-sex friendship and bonding.

In the midst of an escalating gay culture that actively promotes and celebrates homosexual sex, even in its most promiscuous forms, how can young men hope to encounter friends with whom they might cultivate healthy and chaste relationships? What role does the Church play in supporting and encouraging this?

A group called Courage offers outstanding spiritual support for those who are struggling with same-sex attraction and desiring to live chastely according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. Founded by Father John Harvey, Courage

held its first meeting in 1980 in New York City. Since then, it has expanded into an international ministry. This important apostolate deserves broad recognition and support for its vital work, yet regrettably, resistance still arises at times in some quarters of the Church when Courage seeks to promote clear Catholic teaching on chastity and homosexuality.

Cultivating a chaste heart demands a deep prayer life, strong spiritual support, and good fellowship, not to mention frequent reception of the sacraments, especially Holy Communion and Confession. Courage vigorously promotes these practices.

I once visited a large Midwest Catholic parish where there was a group of men with same-sex attraction who attended Mass together. I later learned that each of them had his own room in a common living arrangement where they divided responsibilities, prayed together, discussed their burdens and struggles, and sought to strengthen each other in their shared journey of following the Lord generously and chastely. They were a source of inspiration and an example of hope within the parish, which supported and encouraged them.

Among same-sex-attracted individuals, cultivating chaste relationships with each other can sometimes be complex. Doing so requires a supportive environ-

ment, patience, an understanding of human weakness, a strong sense of hope, and a mutually-shared determination to avoid near occasions of sin.

A few years ago, I read a memorable, no-holds-barred commentary on the gay lifestyle by Ronald G. Lee, a librarian in Houston, Texas, in which, based on his own struggles with homosexuality, he offered several helpful observations. He disputed the claim that gay men are supposed to, or are even able to, live in monogamous homosexual relationships. Instead, echoing the wisdom of the Church's teaching, he stressed the fundamental need for a chaste lifestyle.

At the same time, he acknowledged the urgent need for same-sex-attracted individuals to have healthy human friendships with others. He mentioned his best friend Mark, who, like himself, was a refugee from the gay lifestyle and a man of faith. Summing up their relationship, he said, "From Mark I have learned that two men can love each other profoundly while remaining clothed the entire time. We are told that the Church opposes same-sex love. Not true. The Church opposes homogenital sex, which in my experience is not about love, but about obsession, addiction, and compensation for a compromised masculinity."

The Catholic Church stresses that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered but homosexual persons are not. This distinction is crucial. Moreover, a person's natural inner desire for human bonding should not be considered disordered or problematic in itself. In other words, the desire for friendship, relationship and communion, even among same-sex-attracted individuals, is not intrinsically disordered, although desiring and pursuing same-sex sexual relations, which always contravene the root purposes of human sexuality, will be unchaste and immoral.

The desire for closeness among same-sex-attracted individuals can and should be directed toward non-lustful friendships.

A second distinction is also worth mentioning. If homoerotic desires are allowed to take root, linger and be acted upon, they will be inherently problematic and sinful. If such desires, however, arise spontaneously in a person's mind, and are not actively cultivated, entertained, or acted upon, this would not be sinful, insofar as sin always involves a wrong choice.

The late Father Benedict Groeschel alluded to these nuances surrounding our inclinations and choices when he noted, "Homosexuality is a condition; gay and lesbian is a decision."

a beautiful call to each of us, one of authentic freedom and love. Human sexuality involves powerful drives that must be ordered within God's sacred and providential plan. The Catechism reminds us that same-sex-attracted individuals are called ultimately to holiness, which is the fulfillment of a life of love:

"Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection" (n.2359).

That summons is a source of great hope.

*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.ncbicenter.org and www.fatherpach.com.*

The Catholic Church extends

## VIDA DEL ESPIRITU



Padre Wilson Cuevas

## El Valor De Lo Cotidiano

anzas. Tene-  
mos que preformar ese muro.  
La vida es lo que permanece  
a pesar de todo; la vida lo  
que vives a diario, minúscula,  
imprecisa y preciosa como  
ninguna otra cosa. Vivir es un  
pacto conocido y aceptado en su  
fascinante y dolorosa totalidad.  
La vida es duración. Lo que nos  
ha sido dado dura y pasa, de lo  
que dura y no pasa. Como enseña  
Angelus Silesius: "La rosa es sin  
porque, florece porque florece.  
No se preocupa por sí misma, no  
pretende ser vista".

Quien mejor que Jesús nos  
enseña el valor de lo cotidiano,  
El vivió casi toda su vida (unos  
treinta años) haciendo vida normal,  
pasando una existencia ordinaria sin apenas algo reseñable  
que comentar sobre ella. Pero  
esto no quiere decir que su  
vida fuera una vida ocultada ni  
en "hibernación" sino que fue  
irrelevante solo por lo cotidiano  
que resultaba su existencia en  
Nazaret entre los suyos. La suya  
fue una vida toda ella ejemplar  
en el amor manifestado en una  
sencillez que no hemos valorado  
como se merece en relación a  
las enseñanzas que su ejemplo  
proyecta sobre nosotros, que  
tampoco tenemos una existencia  
notizable. Todo lo centramos en  
su vida pública, sin reflexionar  
el sentido que Jesús dio a su vida  
en Nazaret porque es lo cotidiano,  
igual que en lo extraordinario  
la creación se hace proceso: Pro-  
ceso de maduración en el caso de  
Jesús para aceptar la Misión del  
Padre, que fue precisamente una  
vida silenciosa durante 90% de  
su existencia.

Pero lo más importante ni  
siguiera es eso, que aprendemos  
mas tarde. Lo importante es  
saber, con una seguridad que  
brota innegociablemente de lo  
más hondo del alma, si estamos  
dispuestos a amar la vida tal  
y como se presenta! Llega el  
momento en que comprendemos  
la importancia del aire, de la  
luz, de poder pensar, hablar, reír,  
caminar, trabajar, amar y convi-  
vir, vivir en armonía y en paz.  
Como dice Simone Weil: "La  
atención es una oración"; vivir es  
así de simple, solo necesitamos  
redescubrirlo, despojarnos de lo  
mucho que nos interfiere y aban-  
donarnos a su flujo inexorable. A  
menudo estamos alineados de la  
vida, por creencias, ideologías,  
de angustias, de confusas esper-

Qué sentido tuvo para Jesús  
y cuál es el que tiene para  
nosotros la vida cotidiana, sin  
acontecimientos mediáticos ni  
espectaculares, a la luz de nues-



tra fe? Porque desvalorizamos  
nuestra existencia simplemente  
porque no tiene las sensaciones  
y glamores que entendemos que  
deberíamos experimentar?" Si  
Dios mismo ha estado treinta  
años sin hacer nada destacable,  
entonces la auténtica importancia  
de la existencia humana radica  
en la hondura con que se viven  
las realidades cotidianas". Esto  
leo de Margarita Saldaña y me  
parece una estupenda llamada a  
la reflexión en oración, porque  
en definitiva, cualquier lugar y  
situación de la vida son un lugar  
potencial de encuentro con Dios.

La cotidianidad es una gran  
parcela de vida que podemos  
convertir en ámbito de experien-  
cias religiosa abierto a la llamada

de las necesidades del mundo,  
sabiendo que El asumió la aparen-  
te vida rutinaria que le ocupó  
durante gran parte de su vida  
pero aportando un horizonte lle-  
no de sentido. Lo que cambia la  
vida creándola siempre de nuevo  
no son las sensaciones puntuales  
sino el modo de actuar en nuestra  
vocación, el cómo hacemos las  
cosas, aunque "nadie" nos vea  
y peor aún, sin que nadie se  
fije en nuestra acción anónima  
y no reconocida para el resto.  
Esa actitud sencilla y dispuesta  
resulta creadora y valiosa por  
la carga de amor que comporta  
su propia naturaleza. La vida  
callada puede ser tremadamente  
fructífera porque rebosa voluntad  
de respuesta a la voluntad de

dios. María es el ejemplo de que  
lo cotidiano vivido intensamente  
con fe en una existencia silencio-  
sa, insignificante tantas veces  
y sin protagonismo hacia afuera,  
resulta extraordinariamente  
fructífera. La vida contemplativa  
de miles de hombres y mujeres  
en los conventos pueden hacer  
de una vida irrelevante para  
quienes nos rodean convirtien-  
do en extraordinarias las cosas  
ordinaria y corrientes. No hacer  
nada destacable a los ojos de  
los demás puede significar todo  
lo contrario a los ojos de Dios!  
Parece sencillo pero puede llegar  
a ser heroico!

## The Value Of Living Every Day Well

The moment arrives in which we understand that the most important thing is not to know if life is beautiful or tragic; if in the end, it's just one ridiculous passion or if each moment reveals a sublime undertaking. We are free to consider it from each of those ways, distant and contradictory only in appearance. The amalgamation of truth and suffering, of pure joy and tiredness of love, and loneliness that in the mysterious background is life, it appears, necessarily, in all facets. If we know and welcome her with all our inner strength, it will reward us with the privilege of so many other paths.

But of most importance is not even that, which we learn later. The important thing is to know, with an assurance that springs undeniably from the depths of the soul, yes we are ready to love life as it is presented to us!

The moment arrives when we realize the importance of air, of light, of the power to think, talk, laugh, walk, work, love and live

together, live in harmony and in peace. As Simone Weil says: "attention is a prayer"; living is that simple, we just need to rediscover it, strip ourselves of the things that interfere and abandon ourselves to its inexorable flow. We are often alienated from life because of certain beliefs, ideologies, from anguish and from confused hopes. We have to perforate that wall. Life is what remains despite everything; life is what you live daily, minuscule, unclear at times but precious like no other thing. To live is a pact known and accepted in its fascinating and painful totality. Life can be long. What has been given to us lasts and passes, it can last and not pass.

As Angelus Silesius teaches: "The rose is without a reason, it blooms because it blooms. It doesn't worry for itself, nor does it aspire to be seen".

Who better than Jesus teaches us the value of the "every day". He lived almost all his life (some thirty years) doing normal daily

activities, living an ordinary existence without even anything remarkable to comment on it. But this does not mean that his life was hidden or in a state of hibernation, but it was irrelevant only because of how his everyday life was that of being in existence among his people in Nazareth. His was an exemplary life manifested in love, in a simplicity that we have not valued as it deserves in relation to the teachings that his example projects on us, because we ourselves do not have a noteworthy existence. We center everything on his public life, without reflecting the sense that Jesus gave to his life in Nazareth because it is the everyday, the same way the creation is extraordinary because it becomes a process: a maturing process in the case of Jesus to accept the Mission of the Father which was precisely a silent life during 90% of his existence.

What sense did the everyday life have for Jesus and what sense does it make for us to live

a daily uneventful, mediocre life without spectacular happenings, in light of our faith? Why do we devalue our existence simply because it does not have the sensations and glamour that we think we should experience? If God Himself has been living thirty years without doing anything remarkable, then the authentic importance of human existence lies in the depth with which realities are lived daily". I read this from Margarita Saldaña and it seems to me a great call to reflection in prayer because it is definitive; any place or situation in life is a potential encounter with God.

Everyday life is a great plot of life that we can convert into a field of religious experiences open to the call of the needs of the world, knowing that Jesus assumed the apparent routine life that occupied much of his life but contributing to a horizon full of meaning. What changes our life, recreating it, is not the detailed sensations but the way we act

in our own vocation, how we do things, even when nobody is watching and even more, without anyone noticing our anonymous action unrecognized by the rest.

This attitude, simple and willing, results in being creative and valuable for the burden of love that it carries by its own nature. The quiet life can be tremendously fruitful because it is overflowing in response to the will of god. Mary is the example of what an everyday life, one lived intensely with faith in a silent existence, insignificant many times and without outward protagonism results in an extraordinarily fruitful life. Contemplative life by thousands of men and women in convents can seem a life irrelevant for those around us, converting ordinary and common things into extraordinary things. Not doing anything noteworthy or remarkable in the eyes of the rest can mean quite the opposite in the eyes of God. It seems simple but it can become heroic!

# Building Bridges Of Encounter

**By Jack Griffiths**

*Senior, University of Notre Dame*

This summer, I left the comfort of home in Dallas, TX to complete a policy internship with the Hope Border Institute, a binational social justice organization headquartered at the Diocese of El Paso, before my senior year of college at the University of Notre Dame.

During my internship, most of my time was spent researching migration policies, assisting refugees in the diocesan shelter, visiting local community leaders. But I also occasionally found myself discussing my faith life with my colleagues and other interns.

Some of these interns didn't consider themselves religious. As someone who grew up Catholic, attended Catholic schools all my life and who sings in the church choir, they were curious about my life of faith.

They had a lot of questions and I was initially nervous about sharing details about my faith life. Would I seem weird? Would we argue?

As anxious as I was, I shared my life with them over meals. They asked about why I attended Mass and I answered that I really cherished the opportunity to focus on my relationship with God and those around me. They asked why I sang in the choir, and I told them that singing songs of

worship brings me a sense of comfort and fulfillment I don't find anywhere else.

We had honest and respectful conversations, and I noticed their smiles and nodding heads, that they and that they understood where I was coming from, even if their experiences were different.

But they weren't the only ones with a changed perspective. My conversations with my colleagues made me think critically about my faith, and I found that these dialogues actually strengthened my faith.

In a letter to a non-religious journalist who he had come to befriend, Pope Francis talks about why dialogue between believers and nonbelievers is important. He notes that it is important to have "a dialogue that is open and free of preconceptions, and which reopens the door to a responsible and fruitful encounter".

There are a lot of people today who are leaving the church and more and more people today are growing up without being raised in any faith. We Catholics ought to be willing to build bridges with people who think differently, to withhold judgment, and dialogue respectfully.

My conversations at the Hope Border Institute were helpful because both my peers and I



HOPE Staff and Interns join with the visiting seminarians to discuss with Bishop Mark Seitz the crucial role of faith in the borderlands and in migration. *Photo Courtesy of Hope Border Institute*

agreed not to see each other as strangers but as companions. We let go of the need to hold onto our laurels, and we saw that both our perspectives could evolve and change.

It was a happy coincidence that I had this experience at HOPE, the same place where I was learning and researching how negative attitudes towards

migrants lead to harsh policies against them.

Just as our faith demands that we recognize the humanity of vulnerable people on the move at the border, it also demands that we recognize the humanity of those who think differently and are raised differently. This is one way we can contribute to building a more just and fraternal

world.

*Jack Griffiths is a senior at the University of Notre Dame and a policy intern with the Hope Border Institute. Interested in interning with HOPE? Contact us at [www.hopeborder.org](http://www.hopeborder.org).*

TEACH-IN 2022:

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## Special Collections / Colectas especiales

### Collection for the Catholic University of America and Diocesan Scholarship Appeal

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11, 2022 for the Collection for the Catholic University of America and Diocesan Scholarship Appeal.

The Catholic University in Washington, D.C. is unique as the national university of the Catholic Church and the only higher education institution founded by the U.S. Bishops and chartered by the Vatican.

Half of the funds collected will be given to the Catholic University of America. The other half of the funds are used here in El Paso to provide scholarships to a number of worthy students in our diocesan schools.

### La Ofrenda Especial para la Universidad Católica de América y la Petición Diocesana para Becas

Habrá una Ofrenda Especial Anual el

sábado, 10 de septiembre y el domingo, 11 para la Universidad Católica de América y la Petición Diocesana para Becas.

La Universidad Católica de América en Washington, D. C. es una institución educativa que fue establecida por los obispos estadounidenses y es la única universidad en los Estados Unidos que tiene la facultad pontifical y cuyos estatutos fueron aprobados por el Vaticano. La mitad de los fondos recaudados es para la Universidad Católica de América. La otra mitad de los fondos se utiliza para proporcionar becas a estudiantes necesitados en nuestras escuelas diocesanas aquí en El Paso que proveen becas a muchos estudiantes beneméritos. Gracias por su apoyo.

### Special Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has requested a Special Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) to be held on Saturday,

September 24, and Sunday, September 24, 2022.

The Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) gives each of us the opportunity to serve those who serve.

The collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Service will provide the Gospel, the sacraments and other forms of spiritual support to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces wherever they may serve, no matter the circumstances. Please prayerfully consider a generous contribution to the national Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services. On the weekend of September 24 and 25, 2022.

### Colecta especial para la Arquidiócesis para los Servicios Militares, EE.UU.

La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos ha solicitado una Colecta Especial para la Arquidiócesis para los Servicios Militares (AMS) que se realizará

el sábado 24 de septiembre y el domingo 24 de septiembre de 2022.

La Colecta para la Arquidiócesis para los Servicios Militares (AMS) nos da a cada uno de nosotros la oportunidad de servir a los que sirven.

La colecta para la Arquidiócesis para el Servicio Militar proporcionará el Evangelio, los sacramentos y otras formas de apoyo espiritual a los hombres y mujeres de las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos dondequieran que sirvan, sin importar las circunstancias. Por favor, considere en oración una generosa contribución a la Colecta nacional para la Arquidiócesis para el Servicio Militar. El fin de semana del 24 y 25 de septiembre de 2022.

# We are the Body of Christ

**By Martha Marmolejo,**  
*Pledge Fulfilment Specialist*

Last month on August 29th, we celebrated the passion of John the Baptist.

In the Preface for the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist it says "His birth brought great rejoicing; even in the womb he leapt for joy at the coming of human salvation. He alone of all the prophets pointed out the Lamb of redemption."

John the Baptist was imprisoned for teaching the truth of God's Word and suffered a horrific death. He was a faithful servant of Jesus, because he knew Jesus was the son of God, the lamb of God!

John answered and said: He must increase; but I must decrease. John 3:30

Today, I ask you my fellow parishioners. Are you willing to die for God? Are you willing to be incarcerated for God, like John the Baptist? Are you willing to live for God? These are tough questions to answer, but know this: God wants us to be happy! He wants us ALL to be happy! Unfortunately, life is tougher for some and easier for others. Nevertheless, we can help those that are less fortunate, by providing from our blessings from God. By supporting Jesus' work on earth, through prayer, service, and giving of what He so graciously has

given to us! God is so amazingly good, that when we give with our loving right and generous hand, He returns a thousand-fold onto our left hand.

Today, I invite you to have a conversation with the Lord and ask Him to guide you as to how you can help and serve our beloved Catholic community.

The We Are the Body of Christ campaign was precisely established to help seminarians and deacons finish their studies to become our future servants of God in the Diocese of El Paso. Your help will strengthen our religious education programs and Catholic schools to help our church community gain sanctity

through all sacraments, and it will also support the emergency needs of our parishes.

Our beloved diocese has been committed to the growth and spiritual vitality of the people in west Texas for more than 107 years. It is in these days of so much negative spiritual influence that our diocese needs us the most, in order for us to strengthen our faith for years to come, through our children and our children's children, until God's desire to keep us here on earth.

Remember, God in His immense mercy and faithful love, is always reaching out to us. Let us answer His call with love and commitment.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Martha Marmolejo, Pledge Fulfillment Specialist, for the We Are the Body of Christ Campaign at 915-872-8412 ext. 137 or via email at mmarmolejo@elpasodiocese.org, to make a sacrificial pledge to the campaign or with any questions or concerns. A small donation of \$20 per month for five years will make a huge difference in our diocese! To those who have already made a pledge and are currently fulfilling their commitment, THANK YOU so your support and love.

## Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo

**Por Martha Marmolejo,**  
*Especialista en Cumplimiento*

El 29 de agosto del mes pasado celebramos la pasión de Juan Bautista.

En el Prefacio a la Natividad de San Juan Bautista menciona "Su nacimiento trajo gran regocijo; incluso en el vientre saltó de alegría por la venida de la salvación humana. Él, de entre todos los profetas, señaló al Cordero de la redención."

Juan el Bautista fue encarcelado por enseñar la verdad sobre la Palabra de Dios y sufrió una muerte horrible. ¡Era un siervo fiel de Jesús, porque sabía que Jesús era el hijo de Dios, el cordero de Dios!

Juan respondió: Es necesario que crezca; pero yo debo dis-

minuir. Juan 3:30

Hoy, queridos hermanos feligreses, pregunto: ¿Estamos dispuestos a morir por Dios? ¿Estamos dispuestos a ser encarcelados por Dios, como Juan el Bautista? ¿Estamos dispuestos a vivir para Dios? Estas son preguntas difíciles de responder, pero sepa usted esto: Dios quiere que seamos felices. ¡Él quiere que TODOS seamos felices!

Desafortunadamente, la vida es más dura para algunos y más fácil para otros. Sin embargo, podemos ayudar a aquellos que son menos afortunados, proveyendo de nuestras bendiciones de Dios. ¡Apoyando el trabajo de Jesús en la tierra, a través de la oración, el servicio y dando de lo que Él tan amablemente nos ha dado! Dios

es tan asombrosamente bueno, que cuando damos con nuestra amorosa y generosa mano derecha, Él devuelve mil veces más a nuestra mano izquierda.

Hoy los invito a tener una conversación con el Señor y pedirle que los guíe en cómo pueden ayudar y servir a nuestra amada comunidad católica.

La campaña Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo se estableció para ayudar precisamente a nuestros seminaristas y diáconos a terminar sus estudios para convertirse en futuros servidores de Dios en la Diócesis de El Paso. Su ayuda fortalecerá a nuestros programas de educación religiosa y las escuelas católicas para ayudar a la comunidad de nuestra iglesia a obtener la santidad a través de

todos los sacramentos y también apoyará las necesidades de emergencia de nuestras parroquias.

Nuestra querida diócesis ha estado comprometida con el crecimiento y la vitalidad espiritual de la gente del oeste de Texas durante más de 107 años. Es en estos días de tanta influencia espiritual negativa que nuestra diócesis más nos necesita, para que podamos fortalecer nuestra fe en los años venideros, a través de nuestros hijos y los hijos de nuestros hijos, hasta el deseo de Dios de mantenernos aquí en la tierra.

Recuerde, Dios en Su inmensa misericordia y amor filial, siempre está cerca, buscando nuestra respuesta. Respondamos a su llamado con un compromiso de

amor.

Por favor, no dude en comunicarse con Martha Marmolejo, Especialista en Cumplimiento de Promesas, para la Campaña Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo al 915-872-8412 ext. 137 o por correo electrónico a mmarmolejo@elpasodiocese.org, para hacer una promesa sacrificial a la campaña o con cualquier pregunta o inquietud. ¡Una pequeña donación de \$20 por mes durante cinco años hará una gran diferencia en nuestra diócesis! A los que ya se han comprometido y actualmente están cumpliendo con su compromiso, GRACIAS por su apoyo y cariño.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
EL PASO

## OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CEMETERY

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# Support The Office Of Education Through Catholic Ministry Appeal

By Tina Edwards-Milam  
Annual Appeal Director

As we are settling back to school, let's take time to prepare ourselves spiritually. Together we pray for the safety and sanctity of children, and for the wisdom and holiness of our students, teachers, and parents.

The Office of Education works closely with the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal to support Catholic Schools. Catholic Schools provide high-quality education and religious formation. The Catholic schools in the Diocese of El Paso are staffed by men and women who have dedicated their lives to helping students receive a high-quality education and to help

them develop a love of God and their faith.

Academically, Catholic schools hold high expectations for students, instilling solid study skills and work ethic.

Results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) over the last 20 years show that students in Catholic schools consistently score higher in reading and math than students attending public schools.

Bishop Mark Seitz said, "No other schools can offer the Faith-based, personalized, family-oriented service students will receive from us. No other schools can bring together children from families that share their dreams for their children and will offer

them the foundation not only in academics but in virtues that will guide them through life. No other schools will form them to know how much they are loved by God and able to be supported by God's grace in every trial." (Bishop Mark Seitz, Letter to the Catholic School Principals of the Diocese of El Paso)

The Office of Education works closely with all nine Catholic school campuses. The number of people directly served annually by this ministry is inspiring. Currently, an estimated 2,303 students are enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese of El Paso. The Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal is a yearly diocesan fundraising campaign to support the day-to-day

operations of ministries, like the Office of Education.

In a world where God has been taken out of the picture in so many places, Catholic schools place Him at the forefront of what they teach. He is the reason for Catholic schools and the inspiration for how all should live. Students in Catholic schools are invited to develop a moral compass and a deep set of values based on the Gospel to guide their future lives.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. John-10:27

To continue this positive work, Catholic schools need our help. So, how can you help? The most direct ways you can help are by contributing time, talent, treasure,

and prayer. Catholic schools today perform inspirational work that is needed now more than ever. The work the Catholic schools provide benefits our parishes, communities, church, and nation. Come, see how Catholic schools offer high-quality education and lead our youth into deeper faith-based relationships with God.

The vital work of the Office of Education is made possible by the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal and your continued sacrificial generosity and support. We invite you to participate in the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal both through a commitment to prayer and a Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal gift. Visit [www.2022progress.org](http://www.2022progress.org) today!

## Apoyemos A La Oficina De Educación, A Través De Progreso

Por Tina Edwards-Milam  
Annual Appeal Director

Mientras nos acomodamos de regreso a la escuela, tomemos tiempo para prepararnos espiritualmente. Oremos juntos por la seguridad y santidad de los niños y por la sabiduría y santidad de nuestros estudiantes, maestros y padres.

La Oficina de Educación trabaja en estrecha colaboración con Progreso: Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos (CMA), en apoyo a las escuelas católicas. Las escuelas católicas ofrecen educación de alta calidad y formación religiosa. Las escuelas católicas en la Diócesis de El Paso están atendidas por hombres y mujeres que han dedicado sus vidas para que sus estudiantes reciban una educación de alta calidad y para que desarrollos amor por su fe y por Dios.

Académicamente, las escuelas católicas tienen altas expectativas para los estudiantes, inculcando sólidas habilidades de estudio y ética de trabajo.

Los resultados de la Asociación Nacional de Progreso Educativo (NAEP), muestran que, en los últimos 20 años, los estudiantes en las escuelas católicas obtienen consistentemente puntajes más altos en lectura y matemáticas, en comparación con los estudiantes que asisten a escuelas públicas.

El obispo Mark Seitz dijo: "Ninguna otra escuela puede ofrecer el servicio basado en la fe, personalizado y orientado a la familia, el cual los estudiantes reciben de nosotros. Ninguna otra escuela puede reunir a niños de familias que comparten sus sueños con sus hijos y les ofrece una base, no solo en lo académico, sino en virtudes que los guiarán a través de la vida. Ninguna otra escuela

los formará para saber cuánto son amados por Dios y capaces de ser apoyados por la gracia de Dios en cada prueba". (Obispo Mark Seitz, Carta a los Directores de Escuelas Católicas de la Diócesis de El Paso).

La Oficina de Educación trabaja en estrecha colaboración con las nueve instalaciones de las escuelas católicas. El número de personas atendidas directamente anualmente por este ministerio es inspirador. Actualmente, se estima que 2,303 estudiantes están inscritos en escuelas católicas en la Diócesis de El Paso. Progreso: Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos (CMA), es una campaña diocesana anual de recaudación de fondos para apoyar las operaciones diarias de los ministerios, como la Oficina de Educación.

En un mundo donde Dios ha sido sacado de la escena de

nuestras vidas en tantos lugares, las escuelas católicas lo colocan a la vanguardia de lo que enseñan. Él es la razón y la inspiración para que las escuelas católicas nos enseñen cómo debemos vivir. Se les invita a los estudiantes a desarrollar una brújula moral y un conjunto profundo de valores basados en el Evangelio, para así guiar sus vidas futuras.

Mis ovejas oyen mi voz, dice el Señor; Los conozco y me siguen. Juan-10:27

Para continuar este maravilloso trabajo, las escuelas católicas necesitan nuestra ayuda. Entonces, ¿cómo podemos ayudar? Las formas más directas en que podemos ayudar son aportando tiempo, talento, tesoros y oración. Las escuelas católicas de hoy realizan un trabajo inspirador, el cual se necesita ahora más que nunca.

El trabajo que brindan las es-

cuelas católicas beneficia a nuestras parroquias, comunidades, iglesias y nación. Le invitamos a que venga, vea cómo las escuelas católicas ofrecen educación de alta calidad y guían a nuestros jóvenes a tener relaciones más profundas y por supuesto, basadas en la fe con Dios.

El trabajo tan vital de la Oficina de Educación es posible gracias a Progreso: Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos (CMA) y su continua generosidad y apoyo sacrificial. Le invitamos a participar en el Progreso:

Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos (CMA), tanto a través de un compromiso de oración, como de un donativo a Progreso: Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos. ¡Visítenos en: [www.2022progress.org](http://www.2022progress.org) hoy!

## Diego Perales named 2022 Steward of the Year

The Catholic Foundation began its search for the 2022 Steward of the Year in June of this year, and after receiving 24 nominations from across the diocese for the following stewardship categories: St. Toribio Romo - service to refugees and immigrants, Saint Teresa of Calcutta – service to the poor, St. Teresa Benedict of the Cross Edith Stein – service to those suffering from loss of loved ones, St. John of God service to the sick, St. John LaSalle – education and religious formation, Blessed Carlo Acutis – youth and young adult service, St. Juan Diego for communication and evangelization in our diocese, Diego Perales was selected as the 2022 Steward of the Year by the Catholic Foundation Stewardship Committee.

Diego was nominated for the category of Blessed Carlo Acutis, this category recognizes the service for and by youth, Blessed Carlo Acutis was a young man devout Catholic who loved computers and video games and best known for documenting Eucharist miracles around the world before his death from leukemia.

Paula Favela, Parish administrator from All Saints Parish describes Diego as an outstanding

youth minister and altar server. "Diego is an outstanding youth minister. He has been an altar server at All Saints for 10 years. He is now 18 years old and continues to faithfully serve every Sunday. Diego is now the lead altar server. He trains new servers and works with them at all masses, training and shadowing them, to make sure they perform their responsibilities correctly..."

"Additionally, Diego is tech savvy. Diego helps with technology for presentations at the parish. Diego has also been very involved in helping feed migrant families at the various migrant centers. Even though he is busy with his university studies and parish involvement, Diego is doing a summer internship with Catholic Properties at the Diocese..."

Diego was one of the Hunt Family Foundation Scholars. He attended St. Matthew and graduated from Cathedral High School. From a young age, Diego has always been involved in service to his school and community. As an example, in his seventh-grade year at St. Matthews he was a member of the Student Council, participated in many activities for the parish-school community such as

the St. Matthew Catholic Church Knights of Columbus food drive, the toy drive for the children of the Annunciation House, chess club, the Falcon Boys Basketball team, while also serving his church and community. Diego's goal is to grow stronger in his faith and to pay forward by excelling academically and reaching out to the community.

"Youth are emerging leaders and protagonists in the Church and within their communities, schools, and society at large." -USCCB Youth Ministry. Diego is an outstanding example of a Stewardship way of life in our diocese, and a vivid example of evangelization in the community of El Paso.

Congratulations Diego Perales, and All Saints Catholic Church for receiving this year's Steward of the Year recognition. May God continue to bless your mission and to inspire others to join. Blessed Carlo Acutis pray for us!

*For more information on the 2022 Steward of the Year contest, please contact the Catholic Foundation at 915-872-8412 or at [catholicfoundation@catholicfoundationelpaso.org](mailto:catholicfoundation@catholicfoundationelpaso.org)*



Diego Perales is an outstanding youth minister and altar server at All Saint Parish where he faithfully serves every Sunday alongside his academic responsibilities. *Photo courtesy Catholic Foundation*

# New Permanent Endowed Fund Established for Cathedral High

**By Sofia Larkin**  
Major Gifts Officer

The Catholic Foundation is pleased to welcome a new permanent, endowed fund for Cathedral High School. The fund was established with a pledge of \$100,000.

The Huerta Scholarship and Technology Fund for Cathedral High School was established by Jose L. "Joe" Huerta, Cathedral High School Class of 1966. The primary goal of the endowment is to provide consistent scholarship support and funding for technology in perpetuity.

The Huerta Fund makes the 105th fund in the Catholic Legacy Fund, the Catholic Founda-

tion's endowment program.

Endowed funds established through the Catholic Foundation ensure that the corpus of the donation is preserved, while income earned on the investment is available for use each year for the beneficiary. They are excellent vehicles for donors wishing to provide long-term support for parishes, schools, ministries, and charities in the Diocese of El Paso.

Joe Huerta established the Huerta Scholarship & Technology Fund for Cathedral High School in honor of his family. Joe ('66), and his brothers, are proud Cathedral alumni. Michael Huerta graduated from Cathedral in 1965. Phil Huerta graduated in

1971. Their sisters, Leticia Huerta ('67) and Ana G. Huerta ('70), are Loretto Academy alumnae. All five siblings attended St. Mary's Catholic School in El Paso.

Joe earned a Bachelor of Science and master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He married Denise Descouzis in 1984 and has been blessed with a successful career in engineering and a happy personal life. Joe and Denise live in Austin.

Cathedral High School provides students with individual attention and focus needed to claim future opportunities. Cathedral has proven to be innovative and on the cutting

edge of academics, and accomplishes its mission to help young men become the best versions of themselves. Cathedral's innovative learning models, rooted in the Lasallian tradition, recognize that each student is created in the image of God with infinite worth", said Joe Huerta.

You can contribute to the Huerta Scholarship and Technology Fund for Cathedral High School in any amount or create a Named Fund with a gift of \$10,000 or more. There is no minimum requirement to contribute to an existing endowed fund. Gifts of any size are welcome, and are essential to Cathedral High School's mission.

Cathedral High School exists

to develop its students into exceptional leaders, citizens, and men.

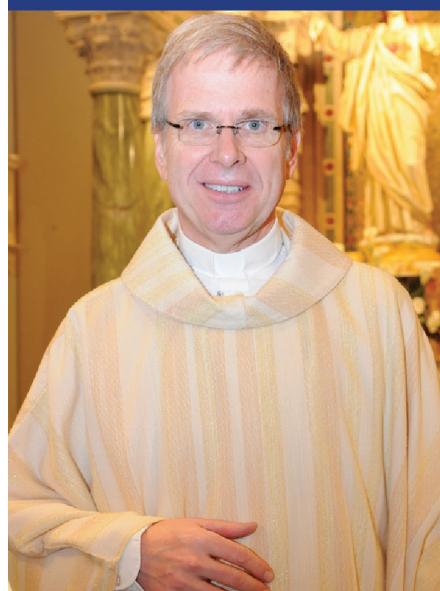
Contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin for assistance with making the gift that is right for you. You can reach her directly at [slarkin@catholicfoundationel-paso.org](mailto:slarkin@catholicfoundationel-paso.org) or (915) 433-2003. The Catholic Foundation is located at the Catholic Pastoral Center at 499 St. Matthews Street in Building G. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm and by appointment.

## 16TH ANNUAL FOUNDATION OF FAITH EVENT PRESENTED BY CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

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WITH *Barbara Padilla*

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*honoring*

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*Mass with Bishop Mark*

ST. RAPHAEL PARISH

AMERICA'S GOT TALENT  
FIRST RUNNER UP



MAGNIFICENT VOICE  
STORY OF SURVIVAL

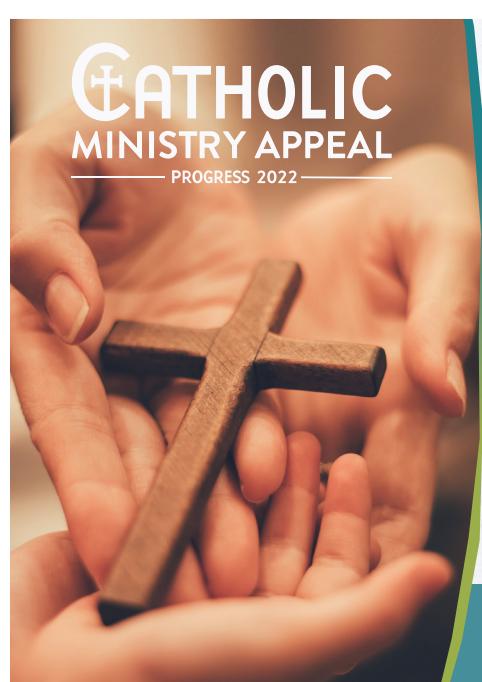
*Music by Sarah Hart*

09.22.22 @ 8:30 AM

[FOFEVENT.ORG](http://FOFEVENT.ORG)

\$125 PER PERSON

915.872.8412



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## Special Announcement

Many of you may remember that in the past few months, we have been promoting an Ocean Cruise featuring the amazing Northern Lights for September 2023, cruising from London to Ireland, Iceland and Norway. To our surprise, this cruise sold out a year and a half before our departure date. With so many wishing to take this journey and currently on a wait list, I have decided to organize another trip for September 2024 similar to the sold out cruise. Details will be available by the beginning of October. If you are interested in receiving more information once it is available, please contact me via Email or phone (talk or text) provided at the bottom of this ad and you will be notified as soon as details are available.

*Fr. Mariano Lopez*

*San Antonio de Padua Parish*

**MARIAN SHRINES**

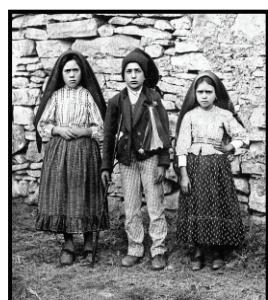
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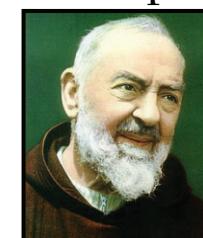
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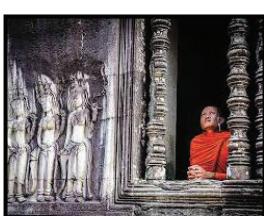
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CONTACT US TO BE PLACED ON NOTIFICATION LIST

*\*Subject to change due to availability at time of booking.*

## **SPECIAL NOTE!**

It has been announced by the Vatican that the Shroud of Turin will be on display in 2025, which is also a Jubilee Year. While details will not be available until sometime in late 2023, I do know that time and space will be limited. If you think you might have an interest in being a part of a pilgrimage to view the Shroud and visit other parts of Italy, including Rome and attend the public audience with the Holy Father, please call, email or text me to place your name on a notification list. No obligation to travel.



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Is your parish considering organizing a pilgrimage but not sure where to begin? Call, text or email Kerry for a no obligation proposal.