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JANUARY 2016

New permanent diaconate program
set to begin

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CHS' Chief Justice Barajas retires

pg. 7

GET READY! POPE IN JUAREZ FEB. 17



-Elizabeth O'Hara, RGC Editor

Finally, the worst kept secret in the city is out. The Vatican confirmed a visit by Pope Francis to Juarez will take place Feb. 17, 2016. The city will be the last of a 4-city stop the Holy Father will make in Mexico.

"We are thrilled that Pope Francis will make a stop through this border region," said Bishop Mark Seitz. "Bishop Jose Torres of Juarez and I, along with Bishop Oscar Cantú of Las Cruces enjoy a particularly close relationship as the bishops of the three dioceses located in this one metropolitan area. In spite of the borders and boundaries that exist, we see ourselves as one great Catholic community, and so we are immensely grateful and honored that Pope Francis has chosen to come to our area."

What to expect from the Mexico trip

Pope Francis' visit will undoubtedly call attention to many realities that are lived on both sides of the U.S. – Mexico border, particularly the plight of so many migrants and refugees fleeing violence and poverty in their home countries, in search of better lives for themselves and their children.

"The symbolism of the visit is clearly intended to deflate narratives which justify harsh attitudes towards migrant and facilitate willful ignorance of the struggles of the worker," said Dylan Corbett, Dir., Hope Border Institute. "His trip will expose the moral dimensions of policies which treat so many classes of people as 'leftovers,' undeserving of mercy or justice."

Pope Francis' trip will begin Feb. 12 when he arrives in Mexico City. The Pope is expected to celebrate Mass at the Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. From there, the pontiff will travel to Chiapas, which Corbett said is increasingly under siege by environmental and human rights abuses.

"The U.S. has taken to bankrolling the militarization of Mexico's southern border in order to avoid another surge of child migrants from Central America," he said. "A visit to Chiapas is a shot across the bow to both Mexico and the United States on the issue of immigration."

Morelia, Mexico a city still plagued by drug-related violence will be the Pope's next stop. (*cont. pg. 8*)

Christmas and Pope Francis Visit
Remind Us that God is Near

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La Visita de la Navidad y del Papa
Francisco nos Recuerda que Dios está cerca
página 3



Francisco viaje a Ciudad Juárez

- 8:35 a.m. Salida en avión a Ciudad Juárez
- 10:00 a.m. Llegada al aeropuerto internacional "Abraham González" de Ciudad Juárez
- 10:30 a.m. Visita al Centro Penitenciario (CeReSo n.3)
- 12:00 a.m. Encuentro con el mundo del trabajo en el Colegio de Bachilleres del Estado de Chihuahua
- 4:00 p.m. SANTA MISA en el área de la feria de Ciudad Juárez
- 7:00 a.m. Ceremonia de despedida en el aeropuerto internacional de Ciudad Juárez
- 7:15 a.m. Salida en avión a Roma/Ciampino

-Traducción por Martha Marmolejo

Finalmente, el secreto peor guardado en la ciudad, está fuera. El Vaticano confirmó la visita del Papa Francisco a Ciudad Juárez, la cual se llevará a cabo el 17 de febrero del 2016. La ciudad será la última de 4 ciudades donde se detendrá el Santo Padre en México.

"Estamos emocionadísimos de que el Papa Francisco haga una parada a esta región de la frontera", dijo el Señor Obispo Mark Seitz. "El Señor Obispo José Torres de Juárez y un servidor, junto con el Señor Obispo Oscar Cantú de Las Cruces, disfrutamos de una relación particularmente estrecha, como obispos de las tres diócesis ubicadas en esta área metropolitana. A pesar de las fronteras y los límites que existen, nos vemos a nosotros mismos como una gran comunidad católica, por lo que estamos inmensamente agradecidos y honrados de que el Papa Francisco haya elegido venir a nuestra área."

Qué se espera del viaje del Papa a México

La visita del Papa Francisco, sin duda, llamará la atención a muchas de las realidades que se viven en ambos lados de los EE.UU. - frontera de México, en particular la difícil situación de tantos inmigrantes y refugiados que huyen de la violencia y la pobreza en sus países de origen, en busca de una vida mejor para sí mismos y sus niños.

"El simbolismo de la visita, es la clara intención de desinflar narrativas que justifican actitudes hostiles hacia los migrantes y que faciliten la ignorancia voluntaria de las luchas de los trabajadores", dijo Dylan Corbett, Director del Instituto Fronterizo Esperanza. "Su viaje será exponer las dimensiones morales de las políticas que tratan a las clases/tipos de personas como "sobras," indigne de la misericordia o la justicia."

El viaje del Papa Francisco iniciará el 12 de febrero, cuando llegue a la ciudad de México. Se espera que el Papa celebre la Santa Misa en el Santuario de la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Corbett menciona que a partir de ahí, el pontífice viajará a Chiapas, una de las ciudades donde más frecuentemente está bajo el asedio de los abusos ambientales (*cont'd página 9*)

The Pope, Mercy, and the Man on the Street

We were coming back from a high-level planning meeting downtown regarding Pope Francis' visit. Bishop Mark, Jorge Vergen (Catholic Properties), Edgar Hernandez (IT) and myself all buzzing about the "what ifs." We weren't on the road three minutes when we rolled up on the intersection of Oregon and Paisano and saw a man lying in the street.

"I think he got hit!" said Jorge. I looked up from my phone where I'd been texting a producer at EWTN. The man was hard to see at first because of the crowd now forming around him. Ever hear the term, "writhing in pain?" This man was. It was one of our rare, blustery and cold days and this man's heavy coat was halfway off his shoulder, the back wheel of his bicycle still spinning, and what looked like a large white, rumpled blanket strewn across the street. The light turned red and we proceeded through the intersection to get out of the way. That's when Bishop said, "Turn around. I can anoint him."

We made a U-turn and Bishop Mark, black coat tails flying behind him, hopped out of the car. A giant blast of wind blew into the car, smelling of the grease traps at a nearby chicken restaurant. We positioned ourselves into a new space and watched from yards away as Bishop and a motorcycle officer got to the man. Poor thing, he tried to sit up but flopped onto his back. Even with a closed car door, I could hear him groan.

We weren't there long but long enough. I watched as, in the middle of a chaotic situation, the Bishop reached out a tender hand to a stranger; brought words of kindness to a fear-filled situation; calmed a crowd that was getting concerned. He did it not because it's his job (and I write of it certainly not because it's mine.) But rather, I watched as one person's mercy was extended to another. It was a simple human act. And I thought, "How different our world would be if we all took care of one another."

Pope Francis' highly anticipated visit to Juarez will be watched worldwide. We know with certainty his Mass will address the journey of the migrant and he will pointedly discuss the victims of the violence in Mexico. We expect him to use *mercy* as the cornerstone of the Homily he will share with us.

I think a lot of times people think of mercy should come in big sweeping gestures – a policy change that could make it easier for refugees to seek the safety of shelter our community can provide. More often than not, it's the small things – greeting the homeless person on the street or, giving a student a notebook they can't otherwise buy – that lays the groundwork for those bigger acts. Long after Pope Francis has gone back to Rome, it will be up to each of us to weave mercy into our own daily lives. We will have to build our own foundation of good works.

Bishop walked back to the car, wind chapped and ready to get on with the day. "It looked like he might have broken his legs. Maybe his arm too," he said. We drove back toward the Border Highway, silent as we left the scene. I'm not keen on my Bible verses but was aware of this one: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you..." (John 15:12) Let us all be merciful as we begin this very exciting New Year. Let us all give Pope Francis a reason to give us his mercy as well.



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El Papa, la Misericordia y el Hombre en la calle

-Traducción por Martha Marmolejo

Estábamos de regreso de un centro de reunión de planificación de alto nivel con respecto a la visita del Papa Francisco. El Señor Obispo Mark, Jorge Vergen (Propiedades Católicas), Edgar Hernández (IT) y yo; todos dándole vueltas al "qué pasaría si." No estábamos todavía en camino tres minutos, cuando llegamos a la intersección entre las calles Oregon y Paisano cuando vimos a un hombre que yacía en la calle.

"! Creo que lo atropellaron!", Dijo Jorge. Levanté la vista de mi teléfono, donde había estado enviando mensajes de texto a un productor en EWTN (Televisión, Radio y Noticias Católicas a Nivel Nacional). Era difícil de ver al hombre en un principio, debido a la multitud que se estaba formando a su alrededor. ¿Ha oído usted hablar del término: "retorciéndose de dolor?" Este hombre estaba retorciéndose. Fue uno de nuestros días raros, ventoso y frío y el pesado abrigo de este hombre estaba a medio camino de su hombro, la rueda trasera de su bicicleta seguía girando y lo que parecía un gran blanco, era una manta arrugada, esparcida por la calle. El semáforo se puso en rojo y procedimos a través de la intersección para salir del camino. Fue entonces cuando el obispo dijo: "Date la vuelta. Yo le puedo ungir".

Hicimos una vuelta en u y el Señor Obispo Mark; faldones negros de su abrigo volando detrás de él, saltó fuera del coche. Un estallido gigante de viento sopló dentro del coche, con olor a las trampas de grasa de un restaurante de pollo cerca. Nos posicionamos en un nuevo espacio y vimos desde unas yardas de distancia como el Señor Obispo y un oficial en motocicleta llegaba hasta el hombre. Pobrecito, él trató de incorporarse, pero se dejó caer sobre su espalda. Incluso con la puerta del coche cerrada, podía oír su gemido.

No estuvimos allí mucho tiempo, pero si el tiempo suficiente para ver como en medio de una situación caótica, el Señor Obispo extendió una mano tierna a un extraño; trajo palabras de bondad a una situación llena de miedo y calmo a la multitud que se iba preocupando. Lo hizo, no porque es su trabajo (y escribo de ello, ciertamente no porque es el mío.) sino más bien porque vi como la misericordia de una persona se extendió hacia otra. Fue un acto humano simple. Y yo pensé: "¡Qué diferente sería nuestro mundo si todos nos cuidáramos unos a otros!"

El Papa Francisco, visita muy esperada a Ciudad Juárez, se verá en todo el mundo. Sabemos con certeza que su Misa abordará el viaje del migrante y él deliberadamente discutirá sobre las víctimas de la violencia en México. Esperamos que use la misericordia como la piedra angular de la Homilía que compartirá con nosotros. (cont. página 3)



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Christmas and Pope Francis Visit Remind Us that God is Near

As you read this, I hope you are cherishing fond memories of a very Feliz Navidad. Since no event so profound as the entrance into the world of the Son of God can really be adequately celebrated in a single day, I hope that your Christmas spirit continues to be in effect. Christmas Day really only begins a Season in which the Church unpacks what she has experienced as she celebrates Feasts like Epiphany, Holy Family Sunday and the Baptism of the Lord, which formally concludes the Christmas Season on January 10th.

As the Christmas Season comes to an end our thoughts will turn with an even greater intensity to another great visitation. This visitor is certainly not the Son of God made man, but it is the one who represents Christ as his Vicar on Earth. As the Bishop of Rome he is the successor of the Apostle Peter, whom Jesus called to be the 'Rock' upon which he built his Church, the one whom Jesus called to build up the Faith of his brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis is one of a series that I believe history will judge as a time of truly extraordinary popes, but perhaps more than any other, he has captured the attention and the admiration of many even well beyond the formal confines of the Catholic Church. I have spoken to members of other Christian churches, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and even non-believers who are completely taken by Pope Francis. His genuineness, his warmth, his fearlessness, his respect for every person, but especially the most overlooked and unloved, has touched all of our hearts.

Well, now he is coming to visit us!

On this day, the attention of the world will be upon our border region. Our faith will be on display as well as that of our Holy Father. We will have the opportunity to give witness to that faith by our expressions of love and service. We will show that it would take more than a border fence to separate us from our brothers and sisters in Ciudad Juarez. We pray that this will be an opportunity for our friends south of the border to turn a page and place behind them a very difficult chapter in their history.

Pope Francis will be among us for one beautiful day. But just as with the Feast of the Birth of Christ, let's hope that the impact of this experience will long be with us. For months and even years we will unpack the events of this day. We will hear again our Holy Father's words and consider again the meaning of his actions.

When Christmas has come and gone be ready for another holy life-changing season in the border region!

+Bp. Mark

El Papa, la Misericordia y el Hombre en la calle

(cont. página 2) Creo que seguido la gente piensa que la misericordia debe venir en grandes y majestuosos gestos – un cambio a las políticas, las cuales podrían hacer más fácil que los refugiados buscaran seguridad y refugio en nuestra comunidad. Pero más a menudo, son las cosas pequeñas – dando la bienvenida a una persona sin hogar y en la calle o, dando a un estudiante un cuaderno que no se puede comprar – eso sienta las bases para los actos más grandes. Mucho después de que el Papa Francisco haya vuelto a Roma, le corresponderá a cada uno de nosotros, entretejer la misericordia en nuestras vidas diarias. Tendremos que construir nuestro propio fundamento de las buenas obras.

El Señor Obispo se regresó de nuevo al coche, agrietado por el viento y listo para seguir adelante con el día. "Parece que se quebró las piernas, creo que el brazo también", dijo. Regresamos hacia la Carretera Fronteriza, silenciosos, tal como salimos de la escena. No soy muy aficionada a mis versos bíblicos, pero estoy muy consciente de este: "Este es mi mandamiento: que os améis los unos a los otros, como yo os he amado." (Juan 15,12) Seamos todos misericordiosos al comenzar este emocionante Año Nuevo. Démole todos al Papa Francisco una razón para que él también, nos de su misericordia.

Diocese offers assistance for victims of sexual abuse

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

La Diócesis ofrece asistencia a las víctimas de abuso sexual.

El Obispo Mark J. Seitz invita a cualquier persona que haya sido víctima de abuso sexual por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o ministro de la Iglesia, para que se comunique con la Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas, Sra. Susan Martínez, LCSW, al teléfono (915) 872-8465 o con la Cancillería al (915) 872-8407. La Iglesia desea sanar a toda persona que haya sido lastimada.



La Visita de la Navidad y del Papa Francisco nos Recuerda que Dios está cerca

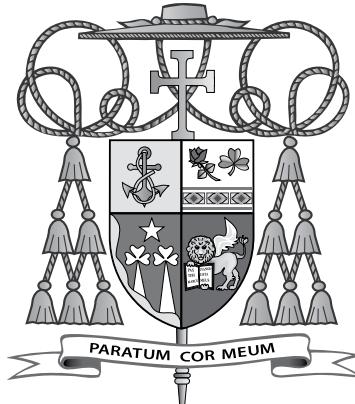
-Traducción por Martha Marmolejo

Al leer esto, espero que usted este acariciando buenos recuerdos de una muy Feliz Navidad. Ya que no hay ningún caso tan profundo como la entrada al mundo del Hijo de Dios que realmente se pueda celebrar de manera adecuada en un solo día, espero que el espíritu de la Navidad siga estando vigente. El día de Navidad en realidad sólo da inicio a una temporada en la que la Iglesia descomprime lo que ella ha experimentado mientras celebra fiestas como es la Epifanía, la Sagrada Familia, el domingo y el Bautismo del Señor, el cual concluye oficialmente la temporada de Navidad del 10 de enero.

A medida que la temporada de Navidad llega a su fin, nuestros pensamientos se vuelvan de una mayor intensidad, a otra gran visita. Este visitante no es ciertamente el Hijo de Dios hecho hombre, pero es el que representa a Cristo como su Vicario en la Tierra. Como Obispo de Roma, es el sucesor del apóstol Pedro, a quien Jesús llamó para ser la 'Piedra' sobre la que construyó su Iglesia, aquel a quien Jesús llamó a construir la fe de sus hermanos y hermanas.

El Papa Francisco es uno en la serie, del cual creo que la historia juzgará como un tiempo de papas verdaderamente extraordinarios, pero tal vez más que cualquier otro, ya que ha capturado la atención y la admiración de muchos, incluso mucho más allá de los límites formales de la Iglesia Católica. He hablado con los miembros de otras iglesias cristianas, judíos, musulmanes, hindúes e incluso los no creyentes, quienes están completamente cautivados por el Papa Francisco. Su autenticidad, su calor, su intrepidez, su respeto por todas las personas, pero sobre todo la gran olvidada y descuidada, ha tocado todos nuestros corazones.

Bueno, ¡ahora él viene a visitarnos!



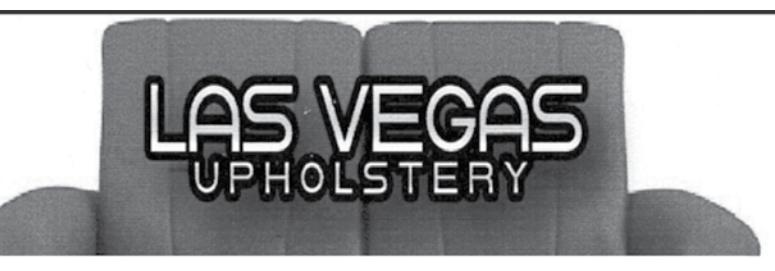
En este día, la atención del mundo estará en nuestra región fronteriza. Nuestra fe estará en exhibición, así como la de nuestro Santo Padre. Tendremos la oportunidad de dar testimonio de esa fe por nuestras expresiones de amor y servicio. Mostraremos que se toma más que una valla fronteriza para separarnos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Ciudad Juárez. Oramos para que esta sea una oportunidad para que nuestros amigos al sur de la frontera puedan voltear la página y colocar detrás de ellos un capítulo muy difícil en su historia. El Papa Francisco estará entre nosotros por un solo hermoso día. Pero al igual que con la Fiesta de la Natividad de Cristo, esperemos que el impacto de esta experiencia se mantenga por mucho tiempo entre nosotros. Por meses, e incluso años, vamos a desempaquetar los acontecimientos de este día. Vamos a escuchar de nuevo las palabras de nuestro Santo Padre y consideraremos de nuevo el significado de sus acciones.

Cuando la Navidad haya venido y partido, ¡estén listos para otra temporada santa y que cambiará-vidas en la región fronteriza!

+Obispo Mark

Welcome
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Bienvenido
Papa Francisco!



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Longtime Diocesan employee retires after 46 years



After 46 years of dedicated service to the Diocese of El Paso, Socorro Lara is retiring on Jan. 15, 2016 from the Finance Office at the Pastoral Center.

"She is a great role model of being a loyal hard working and dedicated employee," said Patricia Fierro, Chancellor of the Diocese.

Socorro started working at the Diocese in March 1969 while she was a student at Father Yermo. She has served under five Bishops and

for the past thirty years, she has served in the Finance Office.

"Socorro said she will miss being part of the Diocesan family but that would be impossible as she will always be part of our family," said Greg Watters, Chief Finance Officer of the Diocese. "Thanks for the lifetime of service Sukey. God Bless you always."

Celebrate World Marriage Day

-Deacon Frank Segura, Dir., Marriage and Family Life



"Call down your mercy on me and her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age ..." Tobit 8:8

What a beautiful and heartfelt prayer, invoking God's mercy and presence! The married couple (Tobiah and Sarah) were indeed called to a "noble purpose," to rejoice in the life of love that they were so blessed to now lead. First in order was their call to prayer which they embraced with good cheer and gladness.

In the Jubilee Year of Mercy we can all expect to be blessed by many images of the mercy and love that God has bestowed on us.

Married couples can be seen as the "visible face of the invisible Father." Their vocation of Holy Matrimony and their "yes" to each other will "let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved and forgiven by God." (Prayer of Pope Francis for the

Jubilee)

The wedding vows of our married couples are deeper than we may understand. Knowing they are not alone, the couple holds fast to the hope of the Resurrection, "in good times and in bad, in richness and poor," laying one's life down for the other, depending on each other, serving and deciding to love each other, living their marriage rejoicing and praising the Lord for his mercy and presence, to a happy old age.

Let's join together for a celebration of God's mercy, for a celebration of Marriage! Save the date!

Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2016, Worldwide Marriage Day Mass 3:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral!

Invite your favorite and beloved couples! Milestone anniversaries will be recognized, special recognition to the longest married couple will also be awarded.

Register 915-872-8401, lguevara@elpasodiocese.org, fsegura@elpasodiocese.org

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Loretto Sister educator, musician Barbara Ann Shultz passes away

A memorial Mass was celebrated Dec. 19, for Loretto Sister Barbara Ann Shultz, a musician and teacher who served for some 40 years in Catholic schools in Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico and Texas, and then moved to Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky., where she did community service work for more than 20 years.

Sister Barbara Ann died Dec. 7 at Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary. She was 94 and in her 73rd year as a Sister of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross.

Sister Barbara Ann was born Sara Shultz Dec. 19, 1920, in Olney, Ill. She entered the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross in 1942 from St. Joseph Parish in Olney, where she had attended grade school.



Sister Barbara Ann taught at Loretto Academy High School from 1966 to 1974 and was a math coordinator at Loretto Academy Elementary School from 1974 to 1984.

In 1984, Sister Barbara Ann moved to Loretto Motherhouse, where she served as a gardener, driver and assisted as a postmistress for the Loretto Community.

In 2005, Sister Barbara Ann moved to Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary, where she carried out a ministry of prayer and community service until her death.

Sister Barbara Ann's ashes will be buried at Loretto Motherhouse Cemetery in Nerinx. There are no immediate survivors. She will be missed by her good friend Loretto Sister Mary Lee Murphy and all her Loretto Community members.

Memorials in Sister Barbara Ann's name may be sent to the Loretto Community, care of the Loretto Development Office, 4000 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Littleton, CO 80123-1308.

Growing number of people rally against death penalty

-Pat Delgado, Coordinator of El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty

Almost 90 people, including 2 priests, several religious, musicians, and parishioners from many El Paso parishes gathered for the "Cities for Life, Cities Against the Death Penalty" vigil on Sunday evening, November 29th.



It was sponsored by El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty and the Diocesan Restorative Justice Ministry.

The names of 13 people executed in Texas this year were read as the group prayed for all of them and their families.

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Movie: “A Universal Approach to Peace”

January 10. Pax Christi Film Series presents “A Universal Approach to Peace.” 3:00 p.m. at Mother Teresa Center, 2400 East Yandell Drive, El Paso. Free admission. In this film, the Dalai Lama speaks eloquently of how a deep understanding of our shared human nature can help us transcend differences and work toward peace. Sponsors of the series are Pax Christi El Paso and the Peace and Justice Ministry of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso. Information: (915) 740-3962.



On Sunday, October 18, 2015, three spiritually dedicated couples from our Diocese were invested as Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in the Rite of Solemn Investiture held recently in Austin, Texas.

Pictured here: Sir (Dr.) Robert B. and Lady Maria Patricia Hoppes; Sir (Dr.) Francisco J. and Lady Maria R Guerra; and Sir (Dr.) Jose Manuel and Lady

Maureen Ann de la Rosa were invested by the Most Reverend Michael J. Sheehan, KC*HS, the Archbishop Emeritus of Santa Fe on behalf of His Eminence, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, KGCHS, who was in Rome.

Sir Peter N. and Lady Maria Socorro Pang are the Section Representatives for the Diocese of El Paso in the photo with the Reverend Msgr. Francis Smith, KCHS, and the Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, D.D., KC*HS.

Restorative Justice Ministry Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of the Diocesan Restorative Justice Ministry will be held at the Mother Teresa Center, 2400 E. Yandell Dr., on Thursday, January 14, from 6-7:30 pm. The focus of this meeting will be on Re-entry, including a short film, and discussing ways to help those being released from prison and their families. All parishes are encouraged to send a “Parish Team” or at least one person who can be a contact person regarding restorative justice.

Pat Delgado 740-3962

EVERY LIFE IS WORTH LIVING



Diocese of El Paso presents:

El Paso March for Life

January 17, 2016

12:30pm

Bowie High School (stadium)

With Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR
from the Bronx & Missionaries

of Corazón Puro



Mass: 3:45 pm with Bishop Mark Seitz

#ElPasoMarchforLife #Stand4Life #ElPaso

Praise and worship, giveaways and much more!

REVERENCE FOR LIFE
MINISTRY

Happy Birthday!!

Fr. Federico Franco, OSM	1/6
Fr. Trinidad Fuentez	1/10
Fr. Stephen Peters	1/10
Bishop Mark Seitz	1/10
Fr. Miguel Flores, OSM	1/17
Fr. Angel M. Maldonado	1/22
Fr. Jose Alcocer	1/23

Ordination Anniversaries

Fr. Jesus Maria Mena, OAR 1/11/86

SEED Awards Dinner

The Diocese of El Paso Education Assistance Fund will hold the 21st Annual SEED Awards at the El Paso Museum of Art.

The event will honor outstanding faculty & staff, volunteers, alumni, and benefactors of Catholic education, and, for the third consecutive year, an award will be given for Teacher of the Year.

The stand up reception will be hosted at the lower level of the El Paso Museum of Art, and awards will be presented on the second floor in the auditorium.

The event will be held January 28, 2015 from 5:30 – 8:00 PM.

New confession hours for Year of Mercy

In celebration of the Jubilee of Mercy, San Lorenzo Parish in Clint, TX is having new confession hours.

They are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays after the mass at 9 am. Thursdays at 6 pm and Saturdays at 4 pm.

More info: (915) 851-2255

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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

Cementerio de Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo

El cementerio de Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo es el único cementerio en El Paso establecido específicamente para servir a la comunidad Católica. Cuando usted más lo necesite, el Cementerio de Monte Carmelo es una extensión de la familia parroquial que proporciona servicios y apoyo para ayudarle a tomar las decisiones difíciles y detalles de los arreglos prácticos que vienen al final de la vida.



Facilities and Services

Our Lady of Mount Carmel offers a full range of options:

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

Aside from the immediate need services available at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, staff members can provide assistance with arrangements for future needs

401 S. Zaragoza Rd * Ph. 860-0606

One in a series of informational presentations

New Permanent Diaconate Program:

Dcn. Jesús Cárdenas, Dir. Permanent Diaconate

In January we are going to begin information meetings for those interested in the permanent diaconate as ministry of life. In this program, there are going to be some changes that are important to know in order to make the decision.

The formation of clergy is guided by the Apostolic Exhortation given by St. John Paul II Pastores Dabo Vobis, which presents four dimensions for the formation of priests and deacons: Human, Spiritual, Intellectual and Pastoral. Following these guidelines, the human formation is important because the deacon presents Christ to others through his own humanity. His personality shall be one that, without artifice, reflects the loving face of God to the others.

Prayer, the Word of God and the participation in the liturgy support the Spiritual part of the formation, with the help of the Holy Spirit that accompanies the deacon at all times. Spiritual growth has the cross as the foundation, which guides him to the Easter Mystery, as a goal for every Christian.

The intellectual dimension will be conducted in cooperation with St. Thomas University and St. Mary's Seminary of Houston. The main goal is that the future deacon may have the theological foundation to conduct their ministry of preaching and evangelizing with a greater theological knowledge.

And, finally, we have the pastoral dimension which is very important in our Diocese because it is the one that prepares the aspirants to become shepherds. Even though the pastors are the ones responsible of the flock of the assigned parish, deacons are also shepherds of souls at the different activities they conduct, and they also participate along with the pastors in this mission.

Men interested in the formation program of the permanent diaconate need to inform their pastor, who after a discernment process, determines if they are a potential candidate. The pastor will then invite potential candidates to a communication meeting that will be held at 7 p.m. in the following places: on Monday January 11th —St. Patrick Canutillo; Tuesday 12th —Holy Family; Wednesday 13th —Corpus Christi; Tuesday 19th —Most Holy Trinity; Thursday 21st —St. Mark; and Friday 22nd —Our Lady of Fatima (Van Horn). Other sessions will be held on Saturday 23rd at 10:00 a.m. —Santa Teresa de Jesus (Presidio); 1:00 pm —Our Lady of Peace (Alpine); and 5:00 p.m. —Santa Rosa de Lima (Pecos).



Diácono Jesús Cárdenas, Dir., Diaconado Permanente

-Diácono Jesús Cárdenas, Dir., Diaconado Permanente

En enero daremos inicio a las reuniones de información para los interesados en el diaconado permanente como ministerio de vida. En este programa, va a haber algunos cambios que son importantes para poder tomar la decisión de aceptarlos, antes de mostrar algún interés.

La formación del clero es guiada por la Exhortación Apostólica, dada por San Juan Pablo II Pastores "dabo vobis", la cual presenta cuatro dimensiones para la formación de sacerdotes y diáconos: humana, espiritual, intelectual y pastoral.

Siguiendo estas directrices, la formación humana pretende que el diácono presente a Cristo a los demás, a través de su propia humanidad. Su personalidad debe ser uno que, sin maquillaje, refleje el rostro amoroso de Dios a los demás.

La parte espiritual de la formación está sustentada por la oración, la Palabra de Dios y la participación en la liturgia, con la ayuda del Espíritu Santo, que lo acompaña en todo momento. El crecimiento espiritual tiene la cruz como fundación, la cual lo guía al Misterio Pascual, como un objetivo para todos los cristianos.

La dimensión intelectual se llevará a cabo en cooperación con la Universidad

de Santo Tomás y el Seminario de Santa María en Houston. El objetivo principal es que el futuro diácono pueda tener el fundamento teológico para llevar a cabo su ministerio de predicación y evangelización, con un conocimiento teológico mayor y real.

Y, finalmente, la dimensión pastoral, la cual es muy importante en nuestra Diócesis, ya que es la que prepara a los aspirantes a convertirse en pastores. A pesar de que los pastores son los responsables de las ovejas de la parroquia asignada, los diáconos son también pastores de almas en las diferentes actividades que realizan y también participan junto con los pastores en esta misión, donde todos estamos invitados a oler como ovejas, como el Papa Francisco nos invita.

Los hombres interesados en el programa de formación del diaconado permanente, deberán de informar a su pastor, quien después de un proceso de discernimiento, determinará si ellos tienen el llamado para invitarle a que asista a las reuniones de comunicación, las cuales tendrán lugar a las 7 pm en los siguientes lugares: Lunes 11 de enero, St. Patrick Canutillo; Martes 12, Holy Family; Miércoles 13, Corpus Christi; Martes 19, Most Holy Trinity; Jueves 21, St. Mark; Viernes 22, Nuestra Señora de Fátima (Van Horn).

Otras sesiones se llevarán a cabo el sábado 23 a las 10:00 am -Santa Teresa de Jesús (Presidio); 1:00 pm - Nuestra Señora de la Paz (Alpine); y 5:00 pm -Santa Rosa de Lima (Pecos).

LOOKING FOR A PILGRIMAGE? VARIOUS DATES AVAILABLE

Holy Land - Italy - Marian Shrines
Ireland - Poland - Mexico - France
Argentina - Greece - Medjugorje



CULTURAL TOURS ALSO! VARIOUS DATES AVAILABLE

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Cathedral High School announces departure of Chief Justice Richard Barajas (Ret.) for Washington, D.C. area position

-Elizabeth O'Hara, RGC Editor

Cathedral High School announced the resignation of Chief Justice Richard Barajas (Ret.), Director of the Center for Advanced Studies, effective January 2016. He will relocate to the Washington, D.C. area to assume the position of Executive Director of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA).

"The opportunity to have someone with my professional background, in particular a former Texas Chief Justice, to be the executive directors of NOVA gives crime victims in this country a unique and powerful voice at a very important time in our country's history," Chief Justice Barajas said.

Barajas has been actively in crime victim issues in Texas and throughout the nation since the murder of an older brother in 1987. He was honored with the Presidential Award for Victim Services for his work with NOVA in 1992 by President George H.W. Bush.

At Cathedral High School, Chief Justice Barajas created the Center for Advanced Studies and its dual credit/early college admissions program. He also established the school's intensive Writing Symposium which focuses on student writing for their use in applying for college scholarships.

"I call it creative non-fiction simply because students learn to eliminate all the fluff found in traditional high

school essays and cut right to the bone," he said. "Their stories have translated to cutting-edge, life-changing types of community service projects that have rewarded students with significant money with which to fund their college education."

To date, the Writing Symposium has produced 87 Gates Millennium Finalists, 45 Gates Millennium Scholars, a national Reagan Foundation Scholar, a national Footlocker Scholar, a national Nordstrom Scholar, and countless other regional and local scholarship winners.

"I don't want to be remembered for the cases I prosecuted, the judicial opinions I wrote, or even the 45 Gates Millennium Scholars I helped produce," Chief Justice Barajas said. "I want to ultimately be remembered for lives I have helped heal."

Chief Justice Barajas '71 is a proud alumnus of Cathedral High.

Marco Ortigoza, MPA, MCJ '08 will assume the duties of Director of Advanced Studies, Early Admissions Program.



La Escuela Preparatoria Catedral anuncia la salida del Presidente del Tribunal Supremo Richard Barajas

-Traducción por Martha Marmolejo

La Escuela Catedral anunció la dimisión del presidente del Tribunal Supremo Richard Barajas (Retiro), Director del Centro de Estudios Avanzados, a partir de enero del 2016. Él se trasladará a la zona de Washington, DC, para asumir el cargo de Director Ejecutivo de la Organización Nacional para la Asistencia a Víctimas (NOVA).

"La oportunidad de tener a alguien con mi experiencia profesional, en particular, un ex presidente del Tribunal Supremo de Texas, para ser el director ejecutivo de NOVA, da a las víctimas de delitos en este país una voz única y de gran alcance en un momento muy importante en la historia de nuestro país", dijo el Presidente del Tribunal Supremo Barajas.

Barajas ha estado activo en cuestiones de víctimas del crimen en Texas y en todo el país desde el asesinato de un hermano mayor en el 1987. Él fue honrado con el Premio Presidencial de Atención a las Víctimas por su trabajo con NOVA en 1992, por el presidente George HW Bush.

En Catedral, el Presidente del Tribunal Supremo Barajas creó el Centro de Estudios Avanzados y su programa de doble crédito / universidad temprana / admisión a la universidad. El también estableció el intenso Simposio de Escritura de la escuela, el cual se centra en que los estudiantes escriban para su uso en

la aplicación de la solicitud de becas universitarias.

"Yo lo llamo no-ficción creativa, simplemente porque los estudiantes aprenden a eliminar toda la gama de actividades que se encuentra en ensayos de secundaria tradicionales y llevan directamente hasta el objetivo principal", dijo. "Sus historias se han traducido desde ser del tipo vanguardistas, proyectos cambiantes de vida de servicios a la comunidad, los cuales premia a los estudiantes con el dinero que significativamente ayuda a financiar su educación universitaria."

A la fecha, el Simposio de Escritura ha producido 87 finalistas del "Gates Millennium", 45 Académicos del "Gates Millennium", un Académico de la Fundación "Reagan", un Académico del "Nacional Footlocker", un Académico del "Nacional Nordstrom" y un sinnúmero de otros ganadores de las becas regionales y locales.

"Yo no quiero ser recordado por los casos que he procesado, las opiniones judiciales que escribí, o ni siquiera por los 45 académicos del "Gates Millennium que ayude a producir", dijo el presidente del Tribunal Supremo Barajas. "Quiero en última instancia, ser recordado por las vidas que he ayudado a curar".

El Presidente del Tribunal Supremo Barajas '71, es un ex alumno orgulloso de la Preparatoria Catedral.

Marco Ortigoza, MPA, MCJ '08 asumirá las funciones de Director de Estudios Avanzados, Programa de Admisión Temprana.



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Kick off the new year right and make positive changes in your life and the lives of your family.

TIP OF THE MONTH:

As the cold season rolls around do you find yourself hibernating instead of exercising? Can't talk yourself into getting bundled up and heading outside for some exercise? The Hospitals of Providence encourages you to stay active indoors! Here are some ideas:

*Play an indoor sport at the gym like basketball or indoor swimming
Go mall walking.*

A brisk 30 minute walk around the mall before you begin your shopping can meet your daily exercises goal.

Play with your children.

Find a great new exercise DVD to get you moving.

Clean out your closet or your garage (even daily activities like that burn calories).

Whatever your activity, don't let winter weather keep your energy down. Get up and go!



EL PASO MUCH CARE

Are you taking care of you?

JANUARY FREE SEMINARS

*Treatment Options for Heartburn
Dr. Gomez, January 13th – 6pm
East Campus, Auditorium,
3280 Joe Battle Blvd. El Paso, TX 79938*

*Are you suffering from knee pain?
Dr. Hernandez, January 13th – 6pm
Sierra Campus, 1625 Medical Center Dr.
El Paso, TX 79902*

*"a New you" Surgical weight-loss options
Dr. Clapp, January 16th – 10am
4532 N. Mesa, El Paso, TX 79912*

*"a New you" Surgical weight-loss options
Dr. Clapp, January 27th – 6pm
East Campus, 3280 Joe Battle Blvd.
El Paso, TX 79938*

GET READY! POPE IN JUAREZ

FEB. 17



An early consideration in Papal preparations was this levy road. It is located near Guillen Middle School and provides access between the Rio Grande and the Franklin Canal.

(cont. pg 1)

And finally, Pope Francis will visit Ciudad Juarez where a full day of activities has been planned, to include, a ticketed Papal Mass.

Pope's itinerary in Juarez

Pope Francis is set to arrive at the Juarez airport at approximately 10:00 a.m. on Feb. 12. Bishop Mark Seitz, along with Las Cruces Bishop Oscar Cantú, will be among those to greet and welcome the pontiff to Juarez. The Holy Father is expected to spend about 30 minutes there before beginning his cross-city travels. As he has in nearly every country he has visited, Pope Francis will make a stop at a prison – this time, the notorious Cereso Prison #3 – where he will spend about 90 minutes visiting with inmates. From there the pontiff will traverse city streets in the “Popemobile” to the Colegio Bacilleres. There, he is expected to meet with 3,600 business leaders and maquila workers.

“Maquilas in Juárez are an object lesson in what Pope Francis has termed the ‘throwaway culture,’ where workers produce cheap consumer goods in exchange for abysmal wages,” said Corbett.

Following that stop, the Pope will visit the Juarez seminary for a private lunch and rest before the finale of the day, a bi-national Mass which he will celebrate at the area known as “El Punto,” on the grounds of the former Juarez feria. It is here that El Paso’s faithful will have their best chance to see Pope Francis.

El Paso activities for Pope

Though the Pope will celebrate in Juarez and his primary focus is Mexico, the El Paso Diocese will respond to the visit with activities on this side of the border. However, the Diocese will not organize pilgrimages to Juarez.

“Due to the many unknowns regarding the time it will take to cross the border, we are working to create meaningful community and prayer experiences here (in El Paso) to bring all of our faithful together at this special time,” said Bishop Mark.

Early estimates put the number of people lining the streets of Juarez along the Pope’s route at one million. The Diocese of Juarez

expects about 220,000 people to attend the Papal Mass. Tickets will be distributed to the diocese of El Paso and Las Cruces though how many will be available has not been determined as this newspaper goes to print. Some El Paso parishioners hope to be in the crowds.

“I will be trying to see the Pope in Juarez, whether by volunteering for the human shield line or attending the Mass,” said Mae Zaragosa, a parishioner at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. “When I didn’t have the chance to see him in Philadelphia,

I prayed to God to afford me the opportunity to see him in Rome. God did me one better! He is bringing our Pope next door and I, for one, am counting down the days!”

Meanwhile, the Diocese of El Paso is planning activities on this side of the border. Among the possibilities is a concelebrated Mass within eyesight of the Papal Mass that would occur along Loop 375/César Chávez Border Highway near Park Street. A team from the Diocese, along with various city, state and federal agencies, have met several times in the last few weeks to work through the logistics.

“This is an event unlike any ever held in El Paso,” said Bishop Mark. “Not only are we working with a number of agencies, we’re asking them to do a tremendous amount of work in a period of weeks, not months.”

“We are exploring the possibility of closing parts of the Border Highway should the Pope’s route take him through a longer stretch near that road,” he said.

The routing of the pontiff and possible street closures are key decisions that will affect the overall plan by the Diocese, said Bishop Mark.

“We know people in our community are eager to see our Holy Father and we’re working very quickly to get those details to them,” he said.

Additionally, the Diocese is looking at satellite locations for participants that would include the opportunity for praise and worship. Jumbotrons would be provided to allow El Pasoans to watch the Juarez Mass while enjoying fellowship in celebration of the papal visit.

“We are hopeful that those who gather will have an opportunity to greet the Holy Father via a two-way video feed that would also allow him to greet them,” said Bishop Mark.

The goal is to finalize plans at the beginning of January. Bishop Mark said a massive communications outreach via parishes, local media, and social media will distribute information to the community. Our parish priests will also be a vital part of the plan, said Bishop Mark.

“We are asking our priests to help us coordinate all parish activities so we can ensure the safety and best experience for all,” he said.

For more information on the Papal visit, go to www.elpasodiocese.org and look for the Pope Francis page. Or call, 915-872-7475.



Las Cruces Oscar Cantú, El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz and Juarez Bishop Jose Torres have been in discussions for many weeks regarding preparations for a visit to Juarez by Pope Francis.

¡PREPARARSE! PAPA EN JUAREZ

febrero 17



Jorge Vergen, director de propiedades católicas y Obispo Mark Seitz a pie una parte del Loop 375 para explorar localizaciones para una posible Misa binacional.

y de los derechos humanos.

“Los Estados Unidos ha tomado el mando de financiar la militarización de la frontera sur de México, con el fin de evitar una nueva oleada de niños migrantes de Centroamérica”, dijo. “Una visita a Chiapas, es un tiro de advertencia a México y los Estados Unidos sobre la cuestión de la inmigración”.

Morelia México, ciudad aún plagada por la violencia relacionada con las drogas, será la siguiente parada del Papa. Y, por último, El Papa Francisco visitará Ciudad Juárez, donde se ha planificado un día lleno de actividades, incluyendo una Misa papal con boleto.

Itinerario del Papa en Ciudad Juárez

Se establece que el Papa llegara al aeropuerto de Ciudad Juárez aproximadamente a las 10:30 de la mañana del 12 de febrero. El obispo Mark Seitz, junto con el Obispo Oscar Cantú de Las Cruces, serán de los que estarán para saludar y dar la bienvenida al Pontífice a Ciudad Juárez. Se espera que el Santo Padre pase unos 30 minutos allí, antes de iniciar su viaje a través de la ciudad. De acuerdo a como lo ha hecho en casi todos los países que ha visitado, el Papa Francisco hará una parada en la prisión – en esta ocasión, la célebre prisión Cereso # 3 - donde pasará unos 90 minutos visitando a los presos. A partir de ahí, el pontífice recorrerá las calles de la ciudad en el “papamóvil” hasta llegar al Colegio Bachilleres. Allí, se espera que se reúna con 3,600 líderes empresariales y trabajadoras de maquila.

“Las Maquilas en Ciudad Juárez son una perfecta lección de lo que el Papa Francisco ha denominado como la “cultura de usar y tirar”, donde los trabajadores producen bienes de consumo barato, a cambio de salarios abismales”, dijo Corbett.

Después de esta parada, el Papa visitará el seminario de Ciudad Juárez para degustar de un almuerzo privado y descansar, antes del gran final del día; una Misa binacional, la cual se celebrará en la zona conocida como “El Punto”, en los terrenos de la antigua Feria de Ciudad Juárez. Es aquí donde los fieles de El Paso tendrán su mejor oportunidad para ver al Papa Francisco.

Actividades del Papa en El Paso

Aunque el Papa celebrará en Ciudad Juárez y su principal objetivo es México, la Diócesis de El Paso responderá a su visita con actividades en este lado de la frontera. Sin embargo, la Diócesis no

organizará peregrinaciones a Ciudad Juárez.

“Debido a muchas incógnitas con respecto al tiempo que se necesita para cruzar la frontera, estamos trabajando para crear experiencias significativas y de oración, aquí en El Paso, para juntar a todos nuestros fieles, en este momento tan especial”, dijo el Señor Obispo Mark.

Las primeras estimaciones sitúan el número de personas que bordearan las calles de Ciudad Juárez por la ruta del Papa, en un millón. La Diócesis de Ciudad Juárez espera que asistan cerca de 220.000 personas a la Misa papal. Se distribuirán boletos tanto a la diócesis de El Paso, como a y Las Cruces, pero la cantidad que estará disponible, no se ha determinado a la fecha en que este periódico se mandó a imprimir. Algunos feligreses de El Paso esperan estar en las multitudes.

“Yo estaré tratando de ver al Papa en Ciudad Juárez, ya sea como voluntario para la valla humana o, asistiendo la Misa”, dijo Mae Zaragoza, feligrés de la parroquia Catedral de San Patricio.

“Cuando no tuve la oportunidad de verlo en Filadelfia, le pedí a Dios que me brindaría la oportunidad de verlo en Roma. ¡Dios me hizo algo mejor! Él está trayendo a nuestro Papa a la Ciudad de al lado y yo, por mi parte, ¡estoy contando los días!”

Mientras tanto, la Diócesis de El Paso está planeando actividades en este lado de la frontera. Entre las posibilidades se encuentra una Misa concelebrada a la vista de la Misa Papal, la cual se produciría a lo largo de la carretera “Loop 375/ César Chávez” pegada a

la Frontera y cerca de la calle “Park Street”. Un equipo de la Diócesis, junto con varias agencias de la ciudad, el estado y las agencias federales, se ha reunido varias veces en las últimas semanas para trabajar a través de la logística.

“Este es un evento diferente a cualquier otro que se haya celebrado en El Paso”, dijo el Señor Obispo Mark. “No sólo estamos trabajando con un gran número de agencias, sino que les estamos pidiendo que hagan una enorme cantidad de trabajo, en un período de semanas, no meses.”

Estamos explorando la posibilidad de cerrar partes de la Carretera Fronteriza, si es que acaso la ruta del Papa le lleva a través de un tramo más largo cerca de esta Carretera. Muchas de estas decisiones son sumamente importantes y afectarán el plan general de la diócesis, dijo el Señor Obispo Mark.

“Sabemos que la gente en nuestra comunidad está ansiosa por ver a nuestro Santo Padre y estamos trabajando muy rápidamente para obtener los detalles para ellos”, dijo.

Además, la Diócesis está buscando ubicaciones satelitales para los participantes que incluirán la oportunidad de la alabanza y la adoración. Se proporcionarán “Jumbotrons” (enormes pantallas de televisión), para permitir que los habitantes de El Paso puedan disfrutar en comuniación y compañerismo, de la celebración de Misa y la visita papal en Ciudad Juárez. Tenemos la esperanza de que aquellos que se reúnan, tengan la oportunidad de saludar al Santo Padre a través de un canal de video de dos vías, de donde el también podrá saludarlos.

El objetivo principal es finalizar los planes, a principios de enero, dijo el Señor Obispo Mark, quien también dijo que un alcance de comunicación masiva, a través de las parroquias, medios de comunicación locales y medios de comunicación sociales, distribuirá la información final a toda la comunidad. Nuestros párrocos también serán una parte vital del plan, dijo el Señor Obispo Mark.

“Estamos pidiendo a nuestros sacerdotes que nos ayuden a coordinar todas las actividades parroquiales, para que podamos garantizar la seguridad y la mejor experiencia para todos”, dijo.

Para obtener más información sobre la visita papal, ingrese a www.elpasodiocese.org y busque la página del Papa Francisco.



Una vista de la carretera gravamen donde los participantes pueden ser autorizados a ver la misa papal desde el lado estadounidense de la fronter.

Most Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Assumption

The students at Most Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Assumption schools have been busy gathering donations for people in need during the month of December. Most Holy Trinity students donated items for newborns including diapers, bottles, baby clothes and formula. These items were taken to the House of Hope, a local crisis pregnancy center. "I think it helps the mother to know that if she is pregnant and she wants to keep her baby that she has a place she can go where she can get food and clothing to help her take care of her baby", said Angela Fortini, National Junior Honor Society President at MHT. "If she doesn't want to have an abortion, then I think it helps her to know that

there is another option."

Our Lady of Assumption students conducted their annual canned goods drive. "This is the season of giving and we want to give to those in need," said Norma Cuevas, third grade teacher at OLA. This project helps emphasize the importance of giving to OLA students. "People don't have food and they don't have way to survive," said third grader Daisy Urenda. "There are people that live in the streets and ask for food. That is why we do the canned good drive." The students were asked to bring 5 cans each; over 400 cans were collected. The cans were given to Our Lady of Assumption's Church pantry.

Catholic Extension Society Grant aides schools

-Jaganath G. Raspopovich, Office of Education

El Paso Catholic Schools applied for a grant in Aug. 2015 from the Catholic Extension Society to work with six of our schools on a four-year strategic management and development project. We were awarded the \$180,000 grant in September and, in conjunction with Catholic School Management, we launched the project.

The schools have completed two of the six sessions for the first year and are already seeing the benefits. The groundwork is being laid through clarification of each school's foundational documents: Mission, Philosophy, Vision, and Graduate-to-

Graduation as well as assumptions in various areas such as demographics.

At the end of the first year, each school should have the basics laid out for their five-year strategic plan. In addition to the grant from CES, each school contributes a given amount, and Catholic School Management will donate \$20,000 in in-kind services.

This grant is a gift and blessing as we grow our Catholic schools in the Diocese and plan to achieve the USCCB goal of "making Catholic schools affordable and accessible" to those who desire a Catholic education for their child.

Loretto Academy



Faith, Community, Justice and Respect. These are the four core values of Loretto Academy. Throughout the Fall semester, all students have been putting their Faith into Action through various community service projects. This semester our students have collected turkeys, non-perishable goods, socks, shoes, toys, school supplies, toilet paper and held various bake sales to raise funds. During Thanksgiving, the Middle and High School collected all the items needed for the perfect Thanksgiving dinner. Over 110 food baskets were made from items donated by

Loretto Academy student for those in need from Sacred Heart Parish. Sacred Heart Parish has been a service learning project for the Middle School for over 14 years.

A school-wide toilet paper drive was held for Villa Maria, a shelter for women. Collectively the students of Loretto Academy collected close to 2,800 rolls, which should last Villa Maria until early summer. This collection occurs twice a school year at All Academy Masses. All toilet paper collected spares a large expense for Villa Maria.

The faculty and students of Loretto Academy are already working on their Service Learning Projects for the spring semester. Upcoming projects include: The Nun Run to benefit St. Albert's school in Pakistan, Lenten collections, Gigi's Playhouse, Reynold's home and the immigration center. It is truly amazing to see the students put their Faith into Action.

Alumni Mass Article Most Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Assumption

Most Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Assumption Schools will be hosting alumni masses this month. Most Holy Trinity's mass will be on Sunday, January 24th at 10 AM and Our Lady of Assumption's mass will be on Sunday, January 31st at 9 AM. Both schools will have a reception and open house after mass. All alumni are invited to attend. For more information please call Most Holy Trinity, 751-2566 or Our Lady of Assumption, 565-3411.



PROVIDENCE

Hable hoy para confirmar sus asistencia al 577-6000



EL PASO MUCH CARE

¿Está tomando cuidado de su salud?

Empiece el año nuevo con el pie derecho y haga cambios positivos en su vida y la vida de su familia.

CONSEJOS DEL MES:

Cada mes le brindaremos consejos saludables y seminarios gratuitos en varios lugares de la ciudad. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta o desea sugerir un tema en específico. Por favor contáctenos vía correo electrónico en info@movinghealthforward.com.

¿Se encuentra usted en hibernando en lugar de hacer ejercicio? No puede convencerse de abrigarse y salir afuera para llevar a cabo una alguna actividad física? Los Hospitales de la Providence le invita a quedarse en casa y continúe su actividad física! Aquí hay algunas ideas:

Jugar un deporte de interior en el gimnasio como el racquetball o baloncesto.

Ir al centro comercial y caminar a paso ligero por 30 minutos antes de comenzar su carro puede ayudarle a alcanzar su meta diaria de ejercicios.

Fregar los pisos (sí, usted puede quemar calorías haciendo limpiando la casa).

Juegue a perseguir a sus niños.

Limpie los armarios o el garaje.

Encontrar un buen video de ejercicios o DVD para empezar a moverte.

Ponga música y baile. No importa si no tiene sentido del ritmo o no conoce los últimos pasos de baile. Sólo tiene que mover su cuerpo y pasar un buen rato.

Sea cual sea su actividad, no permita que el clima de invierno mantenga su energía baja y su peso arriba. ¡A moverse!

SEMINARIOS DE SALUD GRATUITOS:

Tratamiento para la acidez estomacal
Dr. Gomez, 13 de Enero - 6pm
East Campus, Auditorium,
3280 Joe Battle Blvd. El Paso, TX 79938

Sufre de dolor de rodilla?
Dr. Hernandez, 13 de Enero - 6pm
Sierra Campus, 1625 Medical Center Dr.,
El Paso, TX 79902

Pérdida de peso quirúrgica
Dr. Clapp, 16 de Enero - 10am
4532 N. Mesa, El Paso, TX 79912

Pérdida de peso quirúrgica
Dr. Clapp, 27 de Enero - 6pm
East Campus, 3280 Joe Battle Blvd.
El Paso, TX 79938

The Rio Grande Catholic and the Office of Education for the Diocese of El Paso want to recognize the exciting and innovative things our alumni are doing here in El Paso and around the world.

-Jaganath G. Raspopovich, Office of Education

Name: Dr. John Petrozza
Current Occupation/Job Title: Chief, Division of Reproductive Medicine ; Co-Director, MGH Integrated Fibroid Program Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Massachusetts General Hospital; Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

Company/Organization/School: Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Interest, Activities, Clubs, and Professional Organizations:

American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, American Society of Reproductive Medicine, American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists, Society of Reproductive Surgeons, New England Fertility Society (President Elect), UTEP College of Science Advisory Committee, RESOLVE of New England (Executive Board). I love to kayak, hike, cook and play golf. I am editing my first book on the Current Management of Uterine Fibroids and I love teaching my residents and fellows in my program.

Greatest Professional Accomplishment:

Being selected as the first minority division chief within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Massachusetts General Hospital

What Catholic school(s) did you attend?

Most Holy Trinity
Cathedral High School

What was the most valuable lesson – inside or outside the classroom – you learned while attending Catholic school(s)? I learned that hard work, perseverance, respecting others and faith in God will create opportunities for you. Once that door opens, you must have the courage to follow your dreams.

What teacher/staff member/ classmate most influence you? Ms.

Baeza, my preschool teacher at Most Holy Trinity. She was caring and nurturing and was an incredible presence in my life. After I left Most Holy Trinity, I seldom saw her. Then, in 1992, I took care of her as an OB/GYN resident rotating through MD Anderson, helping her manage her treatment for ovarian cancer. Her strength and faith during this most difficult time, and allowing me to be part of it, will be something I never forget. I recall her telling me how proud she was that I had become a physician and how grateful she was that the sniffling little kid that she had loved, was now the young man, the young doctor, here to be with her during this incredible struggle. She taught me so much during those last few days.

How did your Catholic School Education prepare you for what you are doing today? In my world of medicine, one that deals with helping create families, my Catholic school education helps me maintain my moral compass. It helps me to relate to my patients, to respect their differences, to appreciate the similarities, and to navigate through the complexities of their care.

What advice do you have for current students? We learn by questioning. Never assume everything you are told is correct. Research it, put your teachers on the spot, debate it, and convince yourself. Teachers will always remember the students who made them think about what they were teaching.



El Río Grande Católico y la Oficina de Educación de la Diócesis de El Paso quieren reconocer las cosas emocionantes e innovadoras a nuestros alumnos están haciendo aquí en El Paso y en todo el mundo.

-Jaganath G. Raspopovich, Oficina de Educación

Nombre: Dr. John Petrozza

Título actual / Ocupación / Trabajo: Jefe de la División de Medicina Reproductiva; Co-Director, MGH Integrado fibroma Departamento de Obstetricia y Ginecología

del Programa; Hospital General de Massachusetts; Profesor Asistente de la Facultad de Medicina de Harvard

Empresa / Organización / Escuela: Hospital General de Massachusetts, Escuela Médica de Harvard

Intereses, Actividades, Clubes, y Organizaciones Profesionales: Colegio Americano de Obstetricia y Ginecología de la Sociedad Americana de Medicina Reproductiva, Asociación Americana de Ginecológicos Laparoscopías, Sociedad de Cirujanos Reproductivos, la Sociedad de Fertilidad de Nueva Inglaterra (Presidente Electo), UTEP Colegio de Comité Asesor de Ciencia, "RESOLVE" de Nueva Inglaterra (Consejo de Administración).

Me encanta el kayak, caminar, cocinar y jugar al golf. Estoy editando mi primer libro sobre la gestión actual de los fibromas uterinos y me encanta dar clases a mis residentes y becarios en mi programa.

Mayor logro profesional: Ser seleccionado como el primer jefe de la división minoría dentro del Departamento de Obstetricia y Ginecología en el Hospital General de Massachusetts

¿A qué escuela católica (s) asistió usted? A la Santísima Trinidad y Preparatoria Catedral

¿Cuál fue la lección más valiosa - dentro o fuera del aula - mientras asistía a la escuela católica (s)? Prendí

que el trabajo duro, la perseverancia, el respeto a otros y la fe en Dios crean oportunidades para usted. Una vez que la puerta se abre, debe tener el coraje de seguir sus sueños.

¿Qué maestro / miembro del personal / compañera de clase le influenció más? La Señora Baeza, mi maestra de preescolar en la Santísima Trinidad. Ella era muy tierna y nos educaba con amor; ella fue una presencia increíble en mi vida. Despues de que me fui de la Santísima Trinidad, rara vez la volví a ver. Luego en 1992, me hice cargo de ella como residente rotativo, obstetra/ginecólogo, a través del doctor Anderson, ayudando a controlar su tratamiento para el cáncer de ovario. Su fortaleza y fe, durante este tiempo tan difícil y el permitirme ser parte de esto, será algo que nunca olvidaré. Recuerdo que ella me decía que estaba muy orgullosa de que me hubiese convertido en médico y lo agradecida que estaba de que el sollozante niño que ella había amado, era ahora el joven médico que estaba ahora con ella durante esta increíble lucha. Ella me enseñó muchísimo durante estos últimos días.

¿Cómo es que su educación escolar católica le preparó para lo que está haciendo hoy? En mi mundo de la medicina, la que se ocupa de ayudar a crear familias, mi educación Católica me ha ayudado a mantener mi brújula moral. Me ayuda a relacionarme con mis pacientes, a respetar sus diferencias, a apreciar las similitudes y a navegar a través de las complejidades de su cuidado.

¿Qué consejo les daría a los estudiantes actuales? Aprendemos cuestionando. Nunca asuma que todo lo que se le dice es correcto. Investigue, ponga a sus maestros a pensar, debata las situaciones y convénzase a sí mismo. Los profesores siempre recordarán a los estudiantes que les hacían pensar en lo que les enseñaban.

Fr. Yermo Hosts Annual Medieval Fair



Father Yermo High School hosted its 8th annual Medieval Fair.

The event is organized by Ms. Fowler and only the seniors participate in this event.

The seniors create their own Coat of Arms and by dress up in Medieval attire. During lunch the seniors had their very awaited medieval feast prepared by Ms. Fowler.

Afterward, every senior performed in plays that were used to entertain the ladies and knights during the Medieval Age. One senior student commented, "The Medieval Fair was so exciting! The food was delicious and the plays were definitely a fun thing to watch."

The senior class would like to thank Ms. Fowler for her dedication towards making this years' Medieval Fair a day to remember.



St. Matthew Principal Olga C. Macias and Vice-Principal Veronica De La Cruz are eager to cut the ribbon, officially opening the school's new basketball court.

El Paso Catholic Schools

The Sun Bowl Association bestowed the Governor's Award upon the El Paso Catholic Schools float at the 79th Annual FirstLight Federal Credit Union Sun Bowl Parade held November 26, 2015.

This is the second year El Paso Catholic Schools has entered and won an award; this year, the award was presented for "Best Presentation of the Parade Theme." Of the 100 floats involved, only 10 floats received awards.



St. Matthew Catholic School

The St. Matthew Catholic School Falcons celebrated a historical moment for their school on the 4th of December, 2015. After three years of raising money for an outdoor basketball court, the goal was met! A beautiful high school standard sized basketball court was built for the Mighty Falcons. In addition, the court holds 4 smaller courts for our younger students to enjoy. The money was raised by the Home & School Association, the Falcon's Nest, and the Falcon Athletic Boosters. With the help of all our students and the St. Matthew community, our students have a basketball court to enhance their skills, build community and promote team work!



But you just asked me to give...

Sofia Larkin Appleby, Major Gifts Officer
Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso

By our baptism as Catholics we are called to be stewards of God's gifts to us, and to use these gifts in ways that build up our families, our parishes, our communities, and our world. We are encouraged to deliberately and intentionally weigh our various obligations against our limited resources as we decide where we spend gifts of time, money and energy. When we give to our parish and to the greater Church, we communicate our value system—and clearly define what's most important to us—to those who come after us and to the world.

When Catholic Extension awarded the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso a 2015 Challenge Grant to raise funds for the Seminarian Education Endowment Fund, Fr. Mariano Lopez, rector of St. Charles Seminary, and I sent out an appeal letter asking for donors' support. One donor, who has given very generously through the years and continues to give graciously, joked, "Why don't you call some of your other old guys?" He pointed out that he gives one place weekly, another place monthly, to the Sunday collection and so on. In other words, "but you (in the general sense) just asked me to give."

So what are you asked for and why? Let's start with the Sunday collection. We think of the weekly offering to the parish like our paycheck to our family; it's how the bills get paid (utilities, insurance, salaries), but it's actually much more than that.



The Sunday collection should be "... used to care for the decent support of the clergy and other ministers, to order divine worship, and to exercise works of the sacred apostolate and of charity, especially toward the poor ..." according to Vatican II's Presbyterorum Ordinis 17.

Other collections are taken up throughout the year such as a second collection during Mass. These special collections are determined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and all bishops are asked to participate. These national collections include a collection for Retired Religious, the Campaign for Human Development, the Church in Latin America, and for the Holy Land. The diocese and parishes may add their own second collections to each year's schedule of special collections (such as for St. Vincent de Paul, the Parish Building Fund, parish schools, or for our diocesan seminarians and retired priests).

The national collection for retirement for our religious has no impact on the local diocesan Priest Retirement Fund that pays priests a monthly stipend in their retirement, or the Retired Priest Appreciation Fund, an endowed fund managed by the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso, that provides supplemental income to retired priests.

The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso manages the Catholic Legacy Fund, the Foundation's endowment program to meet the long-term needs of our Catholic community, and Progress: the Bishop's Annual Appeal, which raises funds for diocesan ministries and programs that cannot be done at the parish level. Every year we host the Foundation of Faith Dinner and ask you to buy tickets, serve as a table angel, or become a sponsor. Proceeds from this event support the work of the Foundation in sustaining the long-term needs of the ministries, charities, parishes and schools of our diocese. But you just asked me to give...

As Catholics, we live in a covenant with God and by this covenant we accept certain obligations and duties. The precepts, or laws, of Church speak to us about: Keeping holy the Lord's Day and celebrating the major feasts, receiving and celebrating the sacraments, maintaining a life of prayer, and supporting the local church – your parish and diocese.

"How can I repay the Lord for all the great good done for me? I will raise the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people." Psalm 116:12-14. This is not about giving to satisfy, placate, or buy off God, but to praise God in an act of worship that celebrates and rejoices in the wonder of His boundless mercy. This is the heart and soul of what we call stewardship.

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



**Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga,
Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras**



The Shepherd's Corner

GIFTS & BOOKS

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

Hours of Operation

Sunday 10-3; Monday 9-12
Tues 9:15-11:00; Thurs-Sat 10-1
Phone: (915) 585-1771

We Found Pope Francis!

-Fr. Mariano López, Dir. Vocation Office



seminarians remain in close contact with relatives and friends and special concern should be taken when attitudes of negativity and rigidity make themselves present in their personality throughout the formation process.

"When I realize that a youth is too rigid, too fundamentalist, I have no confidence; there is something behind that he himself does not know," explained the pontiff. In addition,

Holy Father reminded the convention that the main image we are to look for and nourish in the hearts of seminarians is the image of Jesus, the compassionate and merciful Good Shepherd who is completely dedicated to the fold. In the same spirit, the Reverend Antonio Spadaro, the Jesuit Editor of the well-known publication *La Civiltà* explained that, throughout their studies, seminarians should constantly consider those whom they are preparing to serve. "Seminarians should not seek to formulate responses to questions that no one is asking," he explained.

Personally, I felt very excited to hear these reflections from the Holy Father and from the different presenters at the convention. In the past days, our six Saint Charles students have taken time to visit with family and friends and on occasions, when it is not possible to travel home because of distance, they have constantly been encouraged to nurture healthy friendships and bonds with the different priests and families whom they have met throughout the semester at our monthly "Mass with the Friends of Saint Charles", their parishes of weekend ministry, and in diverse diocesan events. As we await the beginning of a new semester, and the visit of our Holy Father to our region, we anticipate providing our students with different opportunities to develop more fully the heart of a shepherd.

"Priesthood is a gift. We do not deserve it ... priesthood is also a mystery which begs to be experienced more than to be explained." In these words, Fr. Rolando Fonseca, Associate Vocation Director, described his reflections on the convention titled, "One Vocation, One Formation, One Mission" which took place in Rome in November. Fr. Rolando Fonseca, Fr. Saul Pacheco and I gathered with about five hundred other priests who pursue the same goal: to help men become priests according to the heart of Jesus.

The highlight of the conference was a private audience with His Holiness, Pope Francis, the second day of the convention. "Very few people have the opportunity to get as close to the pope as we did. His words were motivating and challenging at the same time. His authenticity is refreshing," said Fr. Saul Pacheco, Director of Pastoral Formation at Saint Charles Seminary. The words of the Holy Father were a reminder that the ministry of the Diocese of El Paso at Saint Charles Seminary is of critical importance. Saint Charles is the first place where men are received into formation for the priesthood and the tone for the rest of their formation is set from day one.

The Holy Father reminded us that the spiritual and academic preparation candidates receive should be founded upon a healthy and solid experience of being human. It is essential that

¡Encontramos al Papa Francisco!

-Padre Mariano López, director, oficina de vocaciones

-Traducción por Martha Marmolejo

"El sacerdocio es un don. No lo merecemos... el sacerdocio es también un misterio, el cual nos suplica que sea experimentado más que explicado." Con estas palabras, el Padre Rolando Fonseca, Director Asociado de las Vocaciones, describió sus reflexiones sobre la convención titulada: "Una vocación, Una Formación, Una Misión", la cual tuvo lugar en Roma en noviembre. El Padre Rolando Fonseca, el Padre Saúl Pacheco y yo nos reunimos con unos quinientos otros sacerdotes quienes perseguimos el mismo objetivo: ayudar a que los hombres se conviertan en sacerdotes, según el corazón de Jesús.

Lo más destacado de la conferencia fue una audiencia privada con Su Santidad, el Papa Francisco, el segundo día de la convención. "Muy pocas personas tienen la oportunidad de acercarse al Papa como nosotros lo hicimos. Sus palabras fueron motivadoras y desafiantes al mismo tiempo. Su autenticidad es refrescante", dijo el Padre Saúl Pacheco, Director de Formación Pastoral en el Seminario San Carlos. Las palabras del Santo Padre fueron un recordatorio de que el ministerio de la Diócesis de El Paso en el Seminario San Carlos, es de importancia crítica. San Carlos es el primer lugar donde los hombres son recibidos en la formación para el sacerdocio y el tono para el resto de su formación se establece desde el primer día.

El Santo Padre nos recordó que la preparación espiritual y académica que los candidatos reciben, debe ser fundada sobre una experiencia sana y sólida del ser humano. Es esencial que los seminaristas se mantengan en estrecho contacto con familiares y amigos, además de preocuparse y tomar medidas especialmente cuando las actitudes de la negatividad y la rigidez se hacen presentes en su personalidad a lo largo del proceso de formación.

"Cuando me doy cuenta de que un joven está demasiado rígido, demasiado fundamentalista, no tengo ninguna confianza; hay algo detrás que ni él mismo lo sabe", explicó el pontífice. Además, el Santo Padre recordó a toda la convención, que la imagen principal que vamos a buscar y nutrir en los corazones de los seminaristas, es la imagen de Jesús, el compasivo y misericordioso, el Buen Pastor que está completamente dedicado al redil. En el mismo espíritu, el Reverendo Antonio Spadaro, Editor Jesuita de la publicación conocida como "La Civiltà", explicó que a lo largo de sus estudios, los seminaristas constantemente deben considerar a los que están preparando para servir. "Los seminaristas no deben de tratar de formular respuestas a preguntas que nadie les está pidiendo", explicó.

En lo personal, me sentí muy emocionado de escuchar estas reflexiones del Santo Padre y de los diferentes presentadores en la convención. En los últimos días, los seis estudiantes de San Carlos se han tomado el tiempo para visitar a familiares y amigos y en ocasiones, cuando no es posible viajar a casa debido a la distancia, se les anima constantemente a que cultiven amistades sanas y vínculos con los diferentes sacerdotes y familias de los que han conocido a lo largo del semestre en nuestra publicación mensual de "Misa con los Amigos de San Carlos", sus parroquias del ministerio de fin de semana y en diversos eventos diocesanos. Mientras esperamos el inicio de un nuevo semestre y la visita del Santo Padre a nuestra región, esperamos proporcionar a nuestros estudiantes diferentes oportunidades para desarrollar más a fondo el corazón de un pastor.

A Stranger, and You Welcomed Me

National Migration Week 2016

2016 National Migration Week MASS

Presided by Most Reverend Mark Seitz
Bishop of El Paso

Saturday, January 9th at 5:15pm

Saint Patrick's Cathedral

1118 North Mesa Street

The political and humanitarian crisis in Syria is a serious concern for the Catholic Church and the bishops of the United States. In the past five years, at least four million Syrians have fled their country as a consequence of the civil war and the rise of ISIS. Most have fled to surrounding countries, especially Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey, and many others have moved on to Europe with the hope of finding a place of peace and safety. Pope Francis and the Catholic bishops have called on the U.S. government and the international community to provide support to both Syrian refugees fleeing violence and to countries that have been at the forefront of this humanitarian effort.



Fr. Rolando Fonseca, Fr. Mariano Lopez and Fr. Saul Pacheco at the Vatican.

Misioneros de una alegría misericordiosa

La alegría es la manifestación de la felicidad. Vivir la alegría y contagiarla alrededor hace de la tierra un cielo. Y es posible en la medida que se tiene presente el cielo en la tierra, en la vida e cada día. Presencia de Dios y alegría son dos caras de una misma moneda. Una señal clarísima de santidad es vivir alegres. Donde falta alegría es que falta santidad.

Una de las cualidades más importantes que debemos cultivar en la vida doméstica, es la alegría. Si la luz del sol hace brotar las flores y madurar los frutos; así la alegría desarrolla en nosotros todas las semillas del bien. Una persona feliz no es peligrosa. No hace daño a nadie. Solo quiere que todos estén alegres. Hay personas que su sonrisa, su voz o su sola presencia, parece un rayo de sol que derrama felicidad sobre los demás.

Un día un rey le pregunta a uno de sus mejores sabios: QUIEN ES EL SER MAS FELIZ QUE EXISTE? El sabio después de pensarlo un rato, le respondió, su majestad el ser más feliz que existe es DIOS... El se quedó pensativo y luego volvió a preguntarle: Y DESPUÉS DE DIOS, QUIEN ES EL SER MAS FELIZ? El sabio, pensó un rato y luego le dijo al rey: Despues de Dios, el ser más feliz es QUIEN MAS SE PAREZCA CON DIOS... Quien ama a Dios es feliz. Todos los cristianos debemos ser fuente de una perenne alegría misericordiosa; que quienes se acerquen a nosotros vean, sientan y noten nuestra alegría y cuando te pregunten, porque siempre estas tan alegre? puedes decir porque me siento amado y bendecido de Dios. Y si te

preguntan, y que tengo que hacer para sentirme como tú? Acepta a Dios en tu vida, amalo, ora, ve a misa los Domingos, medita en la santa Biblia, reconoce su presencia en los demás, dedícate a servirle en tus próximos y verás que distinta es la vida...

Con tanto dolor como hay en el mundo, en nuestra ciudad y a veces hasta en nuestra misma familia, nos viene una gran necesidad de que Dios nos hable también a nosotros de su misericordia, como siempre lo ha hecho atreves de la historia (Biblia) y especialmente en su Hijo Jesucristo, que pasó haciendo el bien a todos. El Papa Francisco, eligió inaugurar el año de la Misericordia (Diciembre 8, 2015 a Noviembre 13, 2016), para que los cristianos sanemos las heridas y sufrimientos de los seres humanos con la "medicina de la misericordia", proponiéndonos al buen samaritano como nuestro modelo de discipulado. La misericordia de Dios debe alcanzar la mente y el corazón de cada discípulo. Imita a Jesús que nos pide no condenen y no serán condenados, perdonen y serán perdonados... El se dedica a sanar, siendo compasivo y perdonando. Vamos al encuentro de cada persona, llevando la bondad y la ternura de Dios; a todos los creyentes y no creyentes, llévenmeles el "bálsamo de la misericordia", que las parejas distanciadas se busquen y dialoguen, que os familiares que se han peleado o disgustado, tengan el valor de volver a reunirse como familia, los amigos ausentes o descuidado, vuelva a comunicarse, que las personas que tratamos con



Vida del Espíritu
por el Padre Wilson Cuevas

dureza o desprecio, nos acerquemos a ellas con una nueva actitud y propósito de tratar bien...

El Papa Francisco nos desafía a interpretar la misión de Jesús a las necesidades presentes: a consolar con palabras y obras a las personas que sean pobres espiritual y materialmente, a liberar a quienes están atados a nuevas formas de esclavitud de la sociedad moderna, a abrir los ojos a las personas que están ciegas por su mismo egoísmo y restaurar la dignidad de todas aquellas personas a las que se les despoja. Para actuar con misericordia con un espíritu de alegría. Para ser verdaderos discípulos de Jesús, ese amor incondicional y misericordioso sin límites debe estar en el centro de todo lo que decimos y hacemos. Que nuestro propósito en este año de la misericordia nos convierta en misioneros de la misericordia, rescatando a nuestros

Próximos de sus vicios, pecados y de las fuerzas del mal, reuniéndonos en comunidad con Jesús, para disfrutar la plenitud de la vida! Animo.

Violence is never acceptable

Violence invaded our nation during the time around Thanksgiving and early Advent last year. Both the mass shooting at the San Bernadino center for developmentally disabled adults and the attack at the Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood Clinic were horrific acts of violence. Unfortunately, they were neither unique nor even rare incidents of violence in America. According to the Washington Post, there were 355 mass shootings in the 336 days from January first to the shooting on December third, 2015. Yet, these two incidents received massive amounts of media coverage due solely to the inflammatory nature of either the shooters' religion or the politically charged abortion issue.

Dangerous rhetoric. Inflammatory speech. These phrases were used by those trying to steer attention away from the violence itself in order to focus on their own agenda. Rocky Mountain Planned Parenthood's CEO and president, as quoted in a USA Today article, actually said it best: "We know that words matter. It is

time to put an end to the dangerous rhetoric that has permeated our political conversations. Enough is enough – this violence, whether inflicted with words or with weapons, cannot become our normal."

She is absolutely correct. And it should be expected that a high-level abortion executive would understand the power of words since those in the pro-abortion industry are masters at perverting words to fit their philosophy. The only person who was more of an expert at distorting the truth to fit his program would have been Hitler who masterminded the mass murders of millions of Jews and other "undesirables." Yet, the abortion industry's murder rate outnumbers even Hitler's planned massacre.

Manipulation of public opinion is practiced on every issue involving the pro-abortion mentality. News coverage regarding videos of Planned Parenthood officials haggling for a higher price for aborted tissue was expertly misdirected toward the motive behind those recording the

undercover video rather than the issue of selling human baby parts. The actual issue should not have been who made the videos, but rather that the definition of the merchandise was human organs. Since pro-abortionists insist that abortion is not about killing a human child, how can they still sell human organs from that same procedure? Words are powerful weapons.

In the same way, while the violence at the Planned Parenthood clinic was truly an atrocious act, how can this person be associated with any pro-life ideals when the primary pro-life philosophy is that all life should be protected? In an analytical examination of the shooting, there are several oddities. If the shooter felt he was a "warrior for babies," wouldn't he have targeted clinic employees? Instead, he seems to have just wanted to inflict pain and suffering and randomly chose an abortion clinic without even knowing where it was located. Could it possibly be that his erratic ranting and choice of location were designed more for publicity

Sidewalk Jesus
by
Janet M.
Crowe



and media attention rather than ideology? Of course, whatever the motive, violence against any person is unacceptable. The problem is that, once again, the abortion industry and media shifted the attention away from the real problem by targeting the pro-life community as a whole for one deranged man's actions.

Words can and do develop into actions. Common sense should help us recognize when someone is trying to make scapegoats out of a group of people – whether they are preborn babies being blamed for the poverty of their parents or pro-life activists who advocate nonviolent methods but are blamed as a group for one fame-hungry madman.

Words are powerful. Words evolve into actions. We must use our words wisely in order to guide our actions along the path God wishes us to choose.

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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF POPE FRANCIS BISHOP'S MINISTRY APPEAL BEGINS THIS MONTH

2016 Progress Appeal

Progress is the Bishop's annual invitation to the people of the Diocese of El Paso to participate in and support the ministries and programs of our local Church. These ministries and programs support parishes, individuals and families, and the broader community in the 10 counties of the Diocese, and they involve activities that individual parishes cannot carry out on their own.

The Importance of the Bishop's Ministry Appeal

The Progress Annual Appeal funds ongoing ministries and without this source of revenue, the Diocese would not be able to provide its current level of ministries and services. Funds raised through the Progress Appeal represent 40% of all funds available to diocesan ministries.

Parishes, Schools, Families and Individuals Benefit

Parishes receive training, consultation, and direct support from the programs and ministries funded by the Bishop's Ministry Appeal and individuals receive educational, spiritual, and social services. Your gift to the Progress 2016 Appeal will help fund

Tuition for the Diocese's seminarians

Training for a new class of deacon candidates
Programs that strengthen Catholic marriages and families
Counseling services for troubled individuals
Ongoing formation of parish catechists
Faith-based activities for children, youth and young adults
Evangelization and faith formation in Rural West Texas

In the Footsteps of Pope Francis in the Year of Mercy

This year, we celebrate and welcome Pope Francis to the Borderland. We invite you to follow in his footsteps by putting mercy to work. Whether serving the spiritual or human needs of individuals and families, or providing support services and resources to our parishes or schools, the agencies and offices of the Diocese of El Paso are carrying on the work that Christ has entrusted to His Church.

We invite parishioners throughout the Diocese to participate in the Progress Appeal both through a prayer for its success and a pledge of support. Please take some time to prayerfully discern your gift to the 2016 Bishop's Ministry Appeal which will be taken up in the pew on the weekends of February 6-7 and February 13-14.

There are many ways to fulfill your pledge

12 month plan
Cash/money orders
Checks
Automatic Debit from your checking or savings
Credit/Debit Card (Visa, Mastercard and Discover)
Online Pledges and Payments
Gifts of Stock
Employer Matching Gifts (Many companies will match your gift dollar for dollar! Please ask your employer if your donation is eligible for a match.)

Ministries Supported by your Progress Gift

Seminarian and Diaconate Formation

Major Seminarians Program
Permanent Diaconate Ministry
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
Vocations Ministry

Pastoral Outreach

Catholic Campus Ministry
Catholic Counseling Services
Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services
Marriage and Family Life Ministry
Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Evangelization

Communications Ministry
Peace and Justice Ministry
Tigua Native American Ministry
West Texas Ministry
Office of Worship

Education and Formation

Office of Education (Catholic Schools)
Religious Formation Ministry
Tepeyac Institute

The 2015 Progress Report is now available online! Visit www.elpasodiocesefoundation.org to see your Progress dollars at work.

SIGUIENDO LOS PASOS DEL PAPA FRANCISCO

LA APELACION ANUAL PARA LOS MINISTERIOS DEL OBISPO INICIA ESTE MES

Campaña de Progreso 2016

Progreso es la invitación anual del Obispo hacia el pueblo de la Diócesis de El Paso para que participen y apoyen a los ministerios y programas de nuestra Iglesia local. Estos ministerios y programas apoyan a parroquias, individuos y familias, además de la amplia comunidad en los 10 condados de la Diócesis, donde se implican actividades que las parroquias individualmente no podrían llevar a cabo por su cuenta.

La Importancia de la Apelación para los Ministerios del Obispo

La Campaña Anual de Progreso provee los fondos financieros necesarios para que los ministerios trabajen continuamente y sin esta fuente de ingresos, la Diócesis no sería capaz de proporcionar el nivel actual de servicios y ministerios. Los fondos recaudados a través de la Campaña de Progreso representan el 40% de todos los fondos disponibles para los ministerios diocesanos.

Las Parroquias, Escuelas, Familias e Individuos se Benefician

Las parroquias reciben entrenamiento, consulta y apoyo directo por parte de los programas y ministerios financiados por la Campaña Anual del Obispo. Familias e individuos reciben servicios educacionales, espirituales y sociales. Su donativo a la Campaña de Progreso 2016 ayudara a financiar a:

Matrícula para los seminaristas diocesanos

Entrenamiento para las clases actuales de los candidatos al diaconado
Programas que fortalecen a los matrimonios y familias Católicos
Servicios de consejería para personas con problemas
Formación para catequistas parroquiales
Actividades basadas en la fe para los niños, los jóvenes y los adultos jóvenes
Formación, evangelización y la fe en el Oeste Rural de Texas

Existen muchas formas de cumplir con su promesa

Plan de pagos en 12 meses
Efectivo/giros postales
Cheques
Débito automático de su chequera o cuenta de ahorros
Tarjeta de crédito/débito (Visa, Mastercard y Discover)
Promesas y pagos en línea
Donativos en valores
Donativos igualados por el empleador (Muchas compañías igualan su donativo dólar por dólar! Favor de preguntar a su empleador si su donativo es elegible para este programa.)

Siguiendo los Pasos del Papa Francisco en el Año de la Misericordia

Este año, celebramos y damos la bienvenida al Papa Francisco a la Frontera. Te invitamos a seguir sus pasos, poniendo la misericordia a trabajar. Ya sea atendiendo las necesidades espirituales y humanas de los individuos y las familias, o prestando sus servicios de apoyo y recursos a nuestras parroquias, escuelas, agencias y oficinas de la Diócesis de El Paso, las cuales están realizando las obras que Cristo ha confiado a su Iglesia.

Invitamos a los feligreses en toda la diócesis a que participe en la Apelación de Progreso, tanto a través de una oración para su éxito, como con una promesa de apoyo monetario. Busque su invitación del Obispo Seitz y su pastor, para participar en las próximas semanas. Por favor, tómese el tiempo para discernir en oración su ofrenda para la Apelación para los Ministerios del Obispo 2016, la cual se recogerá en Misa los fines de semana del mes de febrero del 6-7 al 13 a 14 de feb.

Ministerios Sostenidos por su Donativo a Progreso

Formación de Seminaristas y
Diáconos
Programa de Seminaristas Mayores
Ministerio de Diaconado Permanente
Seminario San Carlos Borromeo
Ministerio de Vocaciones

Educación y Formación
Oficina de Educación (Escuelas
Católicas)
Ministerio de Formación Religiosa
Instituto Tepeyac

Alcance Pastoral
Ministerio Católico Universitario
Servicios de Consejería Católica
Servicios Diocesanos para Inmigrantes y
Refugiados
Ministerio de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar
Ministerio para Jóvenes y Jóvenes Adultos

Evangelización
Ministerio de Comunicaciones
Ministerio de Paz y Justicia
Ministerio Nativo Americano Tigua
Ministerio del Oeste de Texas
Oficina de Adoración

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