

the Rio Grande Catholic

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Overcoming the
Scourge of Abuse
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VOL. 26 NUMBER 5

SERVING 646,340 CATHOLICS IN THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO

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First Steps: A Commemoration of St. Patrick Cathedral and Cathedral High School

By: Nancy Ramos, Editor Rio Grande Catholic

The El Paso Museum of History's Wall of Giants series this time truly highlights a giant in this region's rich history and is a tribute to the formation of our diocese. The El Paso Museum of History's eighth Wall of Giants exhibit titled First Steps, commemorates the 100th Year Anniversary or Centennial Celebration of St. Patrick Cathedral as well as the 92nd Anniversary of Cathedral High School. The exhibit demonstrates the very rich history of both of these landmark institutions.

"Saint Patrick Cathedral and Cathedral High School have a continuous mission of serving the El Paso community and building ties that bring both sides of our border closer," says El Paso Museum of History Director, David Grabitske. "We are excited to share this piece of El Paso's history as part of the Circle of Giants."

Dr. David Carrejo, Associate Dean at the UTEP College of Education and a proud Cathedral Graduate from Class of 1988 says, "Both of their histories are so interwoven. What we are hoping for is people will leave here with a deeper appreciation of the history of the Diocese of El Paso as it was established and to see how that history is also tied into a lot of El Paso history". Dr. Carrejo mentions that some amazing connections about the histories of these two institutions is the ties they have to Mexico and the Cristeros Revolt.

Rene Valenzuela, Member of the Circle of Giants Committee and Cathedral alumni from Class of 1964 says, "There are so many aspects and details to the exhibit that I really encourage

everyone to come see it, not just Catholics. It is interesting to see how both institutions contributed to our region's history." He mentions a plaque at Cathedral High School that displays the names and photographs of 14 Cathedral graduates who served in World War II. The plaque is included in the exhibit with in depth highlights of these soldiers and their contribution to World War II. He mentions Lionel Smith, a Cathedral Class of 1929 graduate, who became a WWII bomber pilot, volunteered for the Canadian Air Force, the Royal Air Force and the India Air Force who lost his life in service.

Continued on Pg. 5



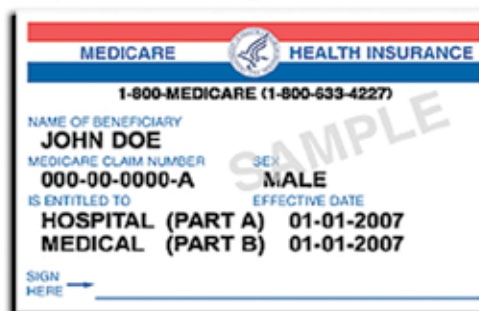
**First Steps
Wall of Giants Exhibit**

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BREAKING OUT OF PERFECT

By: Nancy Ramos, Rio Grande Catholic Editor

Growing up I remember everyone’s mom had a china cabinet. Usually this type of cabinet was enclosed in glass and held the better china, crystal and tableware reserved for special occasions. In Mexican households it sometimes held the special keepsakes from a wedding or quinceñera, those famous centerpieces everyone takes at the end of the night. These cabinets were special holding places for all things dear and where those things get preserved to stay perfect. Very seldom are these items taken out of the dark and into the light for those ever so special occasions. I look back now and think how sad that some of the finer things we owned were hardly ever enjoyed. They entered the abyss of the china cabinet and never made it out again.

I too had one of those familiar cabinets in my previous home and just like I saw as a young girl I filled it with glass and tableware that was special, expensive, one of a kind and sometimes just meaningful. All of it went in the cabinet and rarely made it out again. Everything in this cabinet of

mine was in preservation mode and sadly very unused and seldom enjoyed.

Recently I moved into a new house and all my belongings packed have been in boxes. Slowly my husband and I (very slowly) have been unpacking. To my surprise I am finding things, many things that I had put away and never used. As I unpacked I thought well when am I going to use them?

I have had very small children in the home for many years now and always resorted to our “go to” plates and glassware for most meals. As I unpack my better stuff I am thinking I have been saving some of the best items for really no reason as though to try to keep them unused to keep them perfect. I have been saving them for some future great event that has to be perfect. I have been saving crystal, fine silverware, for what? To use twice a year? I am going to die one day and maybe then will be the perfect time to use the Tiffany & Co. and Waterford at my funeral reception.

Recently I traveled to Sedona Arizona, a red rock city and known to many new agers

for its intense vortex energy. It was a trip that took over twenty years to plan with four friends that through the years have stayed in touch but have not been together in what seemed to be forever. After marriage (for one of us it was plural), many kids (17 kids between the four of us), demanding careers



Nancy Ramos-Director/Editor

and heartbreaking losses (three of us lost a parent to cancer and one of us lost a sister to a tragic accident) we just could not decide on when would be the perfect time to come together. Time flew by fast, really fast and before we knew it life was past the halfway mark of the

average human lifespan. We hit that midpoint and went into preservation mode just like the items in my china cabinet only coming out of the routine under extenuating circumstances.

Finally earlier this summer we realized that the perfect time was not coming and we no longer had the time to wait. We busted out of our china cabinets and flew to Phoenix from all over and drove to Sedona. It was like we had never been apart and we picked up right where we left off. This trip quickly became about reconnecting and getting back to basics in our health, our careers and our families. Remembering that success and fortune are not the keys to happiness and that life’s greatest treasures were the smaller things in life. Realizing that less really is more.

We did the vortex hikes to the major sites, each an awesome natural wonder. These sites are known for causing people to feel something inside them like an abundance of joy or happiness. Interestingly though only one of the known vortexes made me feel something and I do not think it was because of

the direction the energy flows. It happened to be the only Catholic Church on the list of sites, Chapel of The Holy Cross.

This magnificent church is built into the side of a mountain and as you enter it all you feel is light. It is small with about only ten pews on each side but the altar sits on a window that overlooks the most amazing view I have ever had the privilege of witnessing. Breathtaking, tear jerking, awe-inspiring is how I can describe it and even those words do not do the experience of this church justice. I felt Jesus as the light of the world, in it, around it and all over of it. At the altar I felt my beloved mom in the sky and felt like I had been given the chance to see a glimpse of heaven. As I lit a candle for my mom all I could remember was the Lord’s words, “the first shall be last and the last shall be first”.

I sat in prayer for some time. I noticed that around the church were four silk tapestries. Each tapestry was an abstract painting representing the Mercy of God in Life, in Heaven, on Earth and lastly in Creation. I sat right next to the Mercy of God in Life. I sat there reflecting its meaning. I sat there in one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen, next to this beautiful tapestry made of silk pondering the Mercy of God and guess what I, a most fallible believer, noticed and focused on? I noticed a small safety pin in the corner of the tapestry holding it onto the rod on which it was woven around. I noticed this tiny imperfection in a place of perfection. Only me, and the perfectionist in me, would notice this small imperfection at this time and in this place. Mercy of God in Life tapestry was being held together by a safety pin. I could not believe my own laughably perfectionist thoughts. And then it hit me, the perfect was gifted to the imperfect.

God showed us the greatest act of Mercy in Life by sending His perfect son to die for the imperfect us. God expects us, his children, to also be merciful. Mercy is so important that He asks us to bind it around our necks and write upon the tablet of our hearts. In His mercy, He knows and loves the imperfect because He knows and loves us. The safety pin holding that tapestry together is me holding on to God’s perfect mercy in hopes that I can one day live up to what He asks of me.

I came home from that trip with a new sense of gratitude for God’s Mercy. I unpacked the good stuff and I placed it in the kitchen cabinets to be used. I can no longer expect the perfect time, day, occasion, reason, person or life because I too must love the imperfect. Today the only things in my china cabinet are the wine glasses and who knows...I may start serving Kool-Aid in those soon.



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Overcoming the Scourge of Sexual Abuse

Everyone was saddened recently to hear the news that one of the priests, Miguel Luna, who served this Diocese has acknowledged that he abused a young adolescent girl in the 1980's. One of my most heart-wrenching tasks as a bishop has been to speak to victims of such abuse, to hear their story and feel the terrible pain they have endured, often for many years.

It has taken the Church and society as a whole a long time to face this issue and to recognize the depth of the harm that is caused when a person who is supposed to represent God uses a child or any other person for their own perverted and lustful purposes. Many victims of abuse will struggle to recover throughout their lives. Victims of abuse by a priest often also understandably struggle with their relationship with God and the Church.

I continue to be deeply sorry for the pain that members of the Church have caused. For many years I have regularly fasted and prayed for all the victims of abuse. As a Diocese we have been working with these victims when they come to us through the offices of our Victim's Assistance Coordinator, Susan Martinez, LCSW. She is always willing to listen to victims who seek us out and to give whatever assistance we as a Diocese can offer for their healing.

We have also put into place a process by which we can investigate allegations of abuse. Of course, we always recommend that a victim approach law enforcement if they have not done so. We have a long-standing Pastoral Response Committee, which is made up of counseling professionals and others who are independent from the Diocese and are experts in conducting investigations into these allegations. They present their findings to our Review Board, which draws conclusions and recommends actions regarding consequences for the perpetrator and

assistance for the victim.

As you are aware, this problem of sexual abuse is not only a problem within the Church, it is found in every institution of society including schools, youth organizations and within families. One of the proactive responses we have taken to this scourge of abuse is the institution of a new program for the training of clergy, staff and volunteers in parishes and catholic schools.

We had a program in place for some time but under my direction we hired a full time Safe Environment Coordinator, Diana Bulko, MPS. She was given the charge to find the most effective program of safe environment formation that is currently available. We decided on the program known as VIRTUS.

For two years now we have been using this program and in this brief time we have trained over 15,000 people, including clergy, diocesan and parish staff and parish/school volunteers throughout the Diocese. Every parish and catholic school in the Diocese has a school/parish-based safe environment coordinator and under their direction national back ground checks have been conducted and over 500 classes are offered in parishes and catholic schools every year. People are trained as to how to recognize signs of inappropriate behavior and to be aware of indications that a child is experiencing abuse.

I invite you to pray and to work with me that we can root out this terrible evil from our midst—from the Church, from our institutions, from our families, from all of society! Everyone has a role in this fight. In combatting abuse ignorance is one of our greatest enemies. You can help up to make our communities places where all children and vulnerable adults are truly safe and loved, respected and served as Jesus has taught us.

Bp. Mark

Superando el Tormento del Abuso Sexual

Recientemente, todo el mundo se entristeció al escuchar la noticia de que uno de los sacerdotes, Miguel Luna, quien sirvió a esta Diócesis, reconoció haber abusado de una joven adolescente en los años ochenta. Una de mis tareas más desgarradoras como obispo, ha sido hablar con las víctimas de tal abuso, escuchar su historia y sentir el terrible dolor que debieron haber soportado constantemente, durante y durante muchos años.

Ha tomado a la Iglesia y a la sociedad en conjunto, un largo tiempo para enfrentar este problema y reconocer la profundidad del daño que se produce cuando una persona que se supone que representa a Dios, utiliza a un niño o a cualquier otra persona para su propio pervertido y lujuriosos propósitos. Muchas víctimas del abuso lucharán para recuperarse a través de sus vidas. Las víctimas de abuso cometido por un sacerdote, a menudo también y comprensiblemente, luchan con su relación con Dios y con la Iglesia.

Continuo sintiendo profundamente el dolor que estos miembros de la Iglesia han causado. Durante muchos años, he ayunado y rezado con regularidad por todas las víctimas del abuso. Como diócesis, hemos estado trabajando con estas víctimas cuando se acercan a través de las oficinas de la Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas, Susan Martínez, LCSW. Ella siempre está dispuesta a escuchar a las víctimas que nos buscan y a darles cualquier ayuda que nosotros como Diócesis podemos ofrecer para su sanación.

También hemos puesto en marcha un proceso mediante el cual podemos investigar las denuncias de abuso. Por supuesto, siempre recomendamos que una víctima se acerque a la policía, si es que no lo han hecho. Tenemos un sobresaliente Comité de Respuesta Pastoral, el cual está formado por asesores profesionales y por otras personas independientes de la Diócesis y quienes son expertos en la realización de investigaciones sobre estas acusaciones. Ellos presentan sus hallazgos a nuestra Junta de Revisión, la cual saca conclusiones y recomienda acciones concernientes a las consecuencias para el agresor y asistencia para la víctima.

Así como ustedes ya deben de saber, este problema del abuso sexual no es sólo

un problema dentro de la Iglesia, sino que se encuentra en todas las instituciones de la sociedad, incluyendo escuelas, organizaciones juveniles y dentro de las mismas familias. Una de las respuestas proactivas que hemos tomado a este flagelo del abuso, es la institución de un nuevo programa para la formación de clérigos, personal y voluntarios en parroquias y escuelas católicas.

Tuvimos ya un programa ya instituido durante algún tiempo, pero bajo mi dirección contratamos a una Coordinadora de Medio Ambiente Seguro, por tiempo completo, Diana Bulko, MPS. Se le dio a ella la tarea de buscar el programa más eficaz sobre la formación de ambiente seguro, la cual está actualmente disponible. Decidimos conseguir el programa conocido como VIRTUS.

Hace ya dos años que hemos estado usando este programa y en este breve tiempo hemos capacitado a más de 15,000 personas, incluyendo al clero, personal diocesano y parroquial, voluntarios parroquiales y escolares, en toda la Diócesis. Cada escuela parroquial y católica de la Diócesis tiene un coordinador de ambiente seguro ahí mismo en la escuela y/o parroquia y bajo su dirección se han llevado a cabo chequeos de fondo nacionales y se ofrecen más de 500 clases en parroquias y escuelas católicas cada año. Las personas son entrenadas en cuanto a cómo reconocer signos de conducta inapropiada y estar al tanto de los indicadores presentes cuando un niño está experimentando abuso.

Les invito a que oren y a que trabajen conmigo para que podamos erradicar este terrible mal de entre nosotros, de la Iglesia, de nuestras instituciones, de nuestras familias, de toda la sociedad. Todo el mundo tiene un papel en esta lucha. En la lucha contra el abuso, la ignorancia es uno de nuestros mayores enemigos. Usted puede ayudar a hacer de nuestras comunidades, lugares donde todos los niños y adultos que son vulnerables puedan estar verdaderamente seguros y amados, respetados y servidos como Jesús nos ha enseñado.

Obispo Mark



By
Bishop
Mark J. Seitz



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Happy Birthday

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Rev. Donald J. Adamski, OFM Conv.	9-17
Rev. Jose Vera Perez, OFM	9-18
Rev. Alfonso Bonilla (OP)	9-19
Rev. John Rini	9-22
Rev. Ronald W. Eid (Marionite)	9-23
Rev. Richard Sotelo, SJ	9-30

Ordination Anniversaries

Rev. Joe Molina	9-2
Rev. Robert Edward Mosher, SSC	9-18
Rev. Jose Alcocer	9-24
Rev. Antonio Alano De Guzman, Jr.	9-29

Special Collections for the Month of September



Special Collection for Catholic University of America and Diocesan Scholarship Appeal.

This is a reminder of the Special Collection to be held on September 16 and 17, 2017 for the Catholic University of America and Diocesan Scholarship Appeal.

The Catholic University in Washington, D.C. is unique as the national university of the Catholic Church and the only higher

education institution founded by the U.S. Bishops and chartered by the Vatican. As such, it has a special responsibility to educate future leaders for our Church and for our nation. In this sense, the Catholic University of America belongs to all of us in the Church, regardless of where we live.

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

Thank you for your support.

Special Collection for Retirement Fund for Priests

This is a reminder of the Special Offering to be held on September 23 and September 24, 2017 for the Retirement Fund for Priests.

The Clergy Retirement Program provides financial support to those members of the clergy who are over age 65. The

Diocese of El Paso faces three challenges with respect to its diocesan clergy. First, we must insure the recruitment and training of new clergy to meet the future needs of the Church. Second, we must provide for our clergy in need of assistance during emergencies, such as medical

crises. Third, we must provide for the retirement of our priests, particularly for the very aged with special needs.

Thank you for your support.

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

Este es un recordatorio de la Ofrenda Especial que se llevará a cabo el sábado, 16 de septiembre y el domingo, 17 de septiembre del 2017 para la Universidad Católica de América y la Petición

Diocesana para Becas. La Universidad Católica de América en Washington, D. C. es una institución educativa que fue establecida por los obispos estadounidenses y es la única universidad en los Estados Unidos que tiene la facultad pontifical y cuyos estatutos fueron aprobados por el Vaticano. Como cual, tiene una responsabilidad especial para educar los futuros líderes de nuestra Iglesia y de nuestra nación. Es lógico decir que la Universidad Católica de

América nos pertenece a todos los miembros de la Iglesia independientemente de donde habitamos. La mitad de los fondos recaudados es para la Universidad Católica de América. La otra mitad de los fondos se utiliza para proporcionar becas a estudiantes necesitados en nuestras escuelas diocesanas aquí en El Paso que provee becas a muchos estudiantes beneméritos. Muchas gracias por su apoyo.

La Ofrenda Especial para el Fondo de la Jubilación de Sacerdotes

Este es un recordatorio de la Ofrenda Especial Anual que se llevará a cabo el sábado 23 de septiembre y el domingo, 24 de septiembre del 2017 para el fondo de la Jubilación de Sacerdotes. El fondo de la jubilación de sacerdotes provee ayuda financiera a los sacerdotes que tienen más de 65 años de edad. Este esfuerzo ayuda a sus hermanos sacerdotes, quienes son ancianos, están enfermos y están jubilados. La Diócesis de El Paso enfrenta tres retos con respeto al clero

diocesano. Primeramente, debemos asegurar el reclutamiento y educación de nuestros seminaristas, así cumpliremos con las futuras necesidades de la Iglesia. Segundo, el poder ayudar a nuestros sacerdotes en caso de una emergencia, por ejemplo, como una crisis médica y por ultimo proveer un fondo de jubilación para nuestros sacerdotes, especialmente para los de tercera edad con padecimientos médicos.

Gracias por su apoyo.

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Publisher - Most Rev. Mark J. Seitz, D.D.
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Advertising - Nancy Ramos (915)872-8414
Contributors - Janet M. Crowe
Fr. Wilson Cuevas

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

the RioGrande Catholic is a monthly newspaper assisting the Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso by communicating the events and themes of the faith life of the local and universal church through news reports, features, columns and photograph. Articles and photographs become the property of the RioGrande Catholic. If photos are on loan to the newspaper, please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope for their return. Advertising deadline is the last Friday of each month.
Printer - PDX Printing.

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Vicar General Very Reverend Father Ben Flores, Father Fabian Marquez, Brother Alphonse LeBlanc and St. Patrick School Principal Lily Esparza

Continued from Pg. 1
Another Cathedral 1944 graduate, James Carr Foster, was on the SS Léopoldville troop ship that was torpedoed by a Nazi submarine on Christmas Eve in 1944 and killed 700 soldiers.

Jorge Ignacio Angulo, Member of the Circle of Giants Committee and Cathedral Class of 1959, mentions how relevant the laity's contribution was to educating many generations at Cathedral High School and St. Patrick schools. He also highlights how both of these schools contributed to the moral upbringing of El Pasoans in general. Angulo mentions, "As organizers of the exhibit we too have learned many things about their histories that we didn't even know."

In the exhibit you can find the appeal letter written in 1924 by Father Malachy O'Leary, Rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, which at that time was written to demonstrate the financial need and other challenges the Church was experiencing in this region of the country. Challenges faced included immigration, Ku Klux Klan and unrestricted nightlife and gambling in Juarez. Father Malachy was able to build the first Catholic Community Center because of the appeal in this letter.

The poignant history in education of the Sisters of Loretto and Brothers of Christian Schools in El Paso is also a prodigious part of the

exhibit. A highlight of Father Richard Matty's work at St. Patrick Cathedral and a tribute to his relentless faith and touching sermons is also featured.

Another very important aspect to the history on display here includes Bishop

El Paso del Norte, now Ciudad Juarez, in 1668 up until Pope Francis' visit in 2016. First Steps Exhibit will gain additional artifacts and history to showcase as time progresses. This is one you cannot miss!

The First Steps exhibit is on display



El Paso Times newspaper announces the opening of Cathedral High School for Boys on September 8, 1925

Schuler's work in the region in the early 1900's until his return in 1915 as the first consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso, which officially was established as a diocese by the Holy See in 1914.

The exhibit includes a timeline highlighting significant events in the Diocese of El Paso and region from the completion of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Mission in

until February 2018 and is free to the public. This amazing exhibit and tribute to the rich history of these two institutions and the Diocese of El Paso has been a joint effort between Alumni and the Diocese.

The exhibit opened August 20, 2017. For more information go to <http://history.elpasotexas.gov/> or call the El Paso Museum of history at 915.212.0320



Cathedral Alumni who served in WWII



First Steps Exhibit, El Paso Museum of History

FIRST WEDNESDAYS: DISCERNMENT EVENINGS FOR WOMEN

By: Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

“Jesus Calls Women” was the title of a video promoting vocations to religious life some years ago. It sounds obvious. Of course women are still being called to the consecrated life, as well as the married and dedicated single state of life! But how do they hear the call and what resources are available here in the diocese to help them? Where do they even begin a journey of discernment?

The Vocation Committee for Religious of the diocese meets every month to create opportunities for women to consider their calling. The First Wednesday Discernment Evenings for Women are a low-key, no-pressure way to gather with Sisters from several congregations. We gather at 6 pm at the Diocesan Vocation Office, located behind the Pastoral Center near St. Charles Seminary, 8330 Park Haven Ave. We share a light supper and afterwards there is conversation around a theme of vocation discernment and prayer. We finish around 7:30 pm.

Since the first gathering in January eight women have participated and several come regularly. They range in age from 18 to 45 years and they represent

every moment in the discernment process, from “I’m barely able to say out loud that I am discerning...” to “I am pretty sure God is calling me and I am willing but don’t know how to find a congregation”. They find it is a relief to be able to talk freely about their doubts, to ask their questions and to share the obstacles they encounter as they consider a call to religious life. The Sisters themselves have had the same doubts, asked those questions and encountered similar obstacles as they discerned their life’s path. Some issues are the same now as ever, for example, the resistance or opposition of family members to a religious vocation. In recent years the accumulation of educational debt has become an obstacle for discerners. These are just some of the things we talk about over supper or during the evening presentations.

One of the greatest obstacles to overcome is the fear that by even coming to a discernment evening or other vocation event a woman needs to be ready to sign on the dotted line and make a life commitment. Nothing could be further from the truth! These evenings are not recruitment fairs for women



WEDNESDAY DISCERNMENT SUPPER

religious. The Sisters know better than anyone that the process of discerning a call to religious life takes place over years and includes times of clarity and doubt, coming close and backing away. Even more, they see their role as resources and co-listeners to the Holy Spirit at work in each discerner. The goal is to help each woman find the path that leads her to the life God created her to live. If that is a consecrated religious life then our role is to help her find the congregation and charism that is a good fit for her. And if the calling is to married or a dedicated single life then we celebrate and affirm that vocation!

Another opportunity

for women to discern their life direction is a retreat weekend planned for Nov. 3-5 called “Ven y Veras~ Come and See”. The model is similar to the “Jornada Vocacional” used in the Diocese of Juarez. The first retreat will focus on the themes: Who am I? Who calls us to life? How do I live in the fullness of life? Two additional retreats will be offered in February and May with related themes for discernment. The retreats will be held at the Dominican Retreat Center in the Lower Valley and will begin on Friday at 6 pm and conclude Sunday at 4 pm. They will be bilingual and are open to Catholic single women age 18-40 yrs. For further

information contact Sister Meggie at migdalia.flores@doc.org 202-740-6569.

Do you know someone who you think might be called to religious life? Would you be willing to tell her about the First Wednesday Discernment Evenings for Women? The upcoming dates are September 6, October 4, November 1 and December 6. Can you share the information about the retreat weekend in November? Yes, Jesus still calls women. We all need to do our part to help them respond to the call! For more information or to rsvp for the next discernment evening contact Sister Janet at jgildea@elpasodiocese.org or text/call 525-5882.

SCHOOL SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS CELEBRATE SIXTIETH JUBILESS!

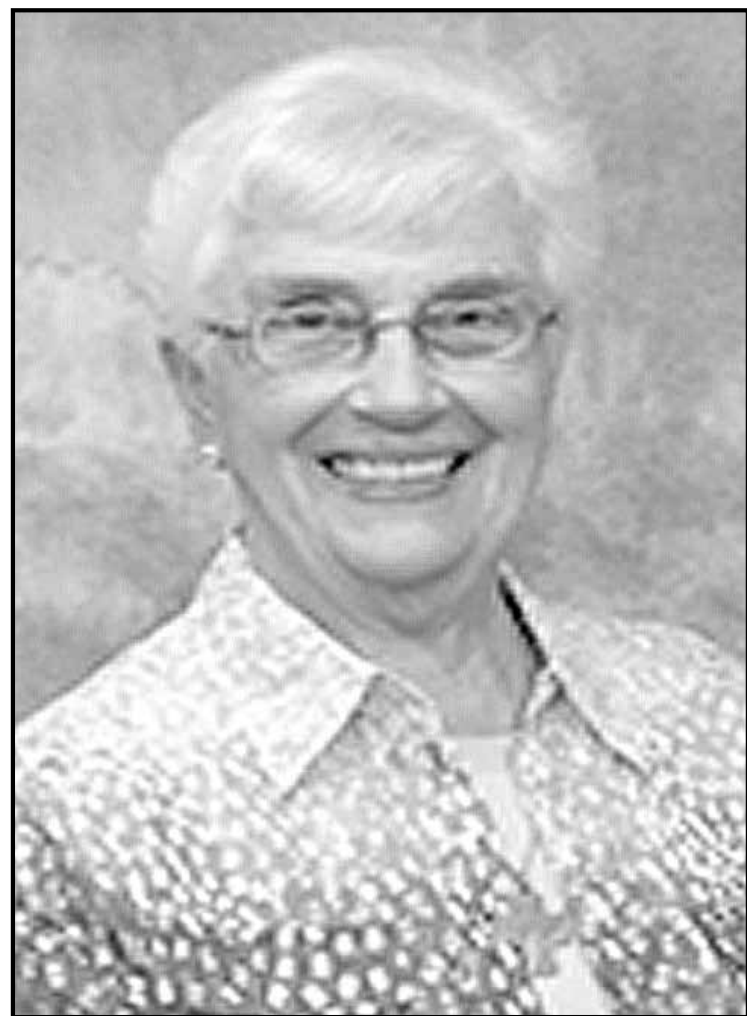
By: Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

Sister Frances Hicks and Sister Arlene Woelfel are both Sisters of St. Francis. In June the congregation, based in Milwaukee, WI, held their celebration of milestone jubilees: 50, 60,

70, 75 and 80+ years of religious life. More than fifty Sisters marked such milestones in just this congregation this year! Sisters Fran and Arlene have served in the Dioceses of El Paso and Juarez for a combined total of twenty-nine years. Both are part of the Casa Alexia Mission of the congregation at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Before and between her years of service here, Sister Fran served as a teacher, principal and pastoral minister in Illinois, Nebraska and Peru. Similarly, Sister Arlene was a teacher, social worker and psychotherapist in Illinois, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Nicaragua and Guatemala. How blessed we are to have them with us!

The Sisters celebrated their jubilee and renewed their vows at St. Thomas Aquinas parish during the 8:30 a.m. Sunday liturgy on August 27. Later in the day the community



SISTER FRANCIS HICKS

welcomed Sisters, friends and co-workers to an open house at Casa Alexia. May the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare renew their

dedication and may God bless them with health and strength for many more years of service! Thank you, Sisters!

Arts, Crafts and Collectibles Fair

Saturday, Sept 9th, 2017 - 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Sunday, Sept 10th, 2017 - 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Christ the Savior Catholic Church
5301 Wadsworth, El Paso, TX 79924
(Adjacent to Veteran's Park)

The El Paso and surrounding areas are welcome.

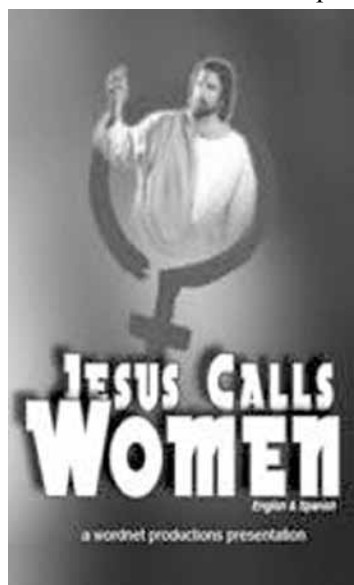
Vendors welcome. Contact Jesus (Jesse) Mancillas (915) 255-6936 for application and fees.

LAS PRIMERAS MIERCOLES: NOCHES DE DISCERNIMIENTO PARA LAS MUJERES

Por: Hermana Janet Gildea, SC, Enlace Para Mujeres Religiosas

“Jesús Llama a las Mujeres” fue el título de un dvd promoviendo vocaciones a la vida religiosa hace algunos años. Suena obvio. Por supuesto, las mujeres siguen siendo llamadas a la vida consagrada, así como el casado y dedicado único estado de la vida! Pero ¿cómo escuchan la llamada y qué recursos están disponibles aquí en la diócesis para ayudarlas? ¿Dónde comienzan un camino de discernimiento?

El Comité Vocacional de Religiosos de la diócesis se reúne cada mes para crear oportunidades para que las mujeres consideren su vocación. El primer miércoles de cada mes ofrecemos una noche de discernimiento para



las mujeres. Son una manera sencilla y sin presión de

reunirse con las hermanas de varias congregaciones. Nos reunimos a las 6 pm en la Oficina Vocacional Diocesana, ubicada detrás del Centro Pastoral cerca del Seminario St. Charles, 8330 Park Haven Ave. Compartimos una cena ligera y después hay conversación sobre un tema de discernimiento vocacional y oración. Terminamos alrededor de las 7:30 pm.

Desde la primera reunión en enero, ocho mujeres han participado y varias vienen regularmente. Ellas varían en edad de 18 a 45 años y representan cada momento en el proceso de discernimiento, de “Apenas puedo decir en voz alta que estoy discerniendo...” a “Estoy seguro de que Dios me está llamando y estoy dispuesto pero no sé cómo encontrar una congregación”. Encuentran que es un alivio poder hablar libremente sobre sus dudas, hacer sus preguntas y compartir los obstáculos que encuentran cuando consideran un llamado a la vida religiosa. Las propias hermanas han tenido las mismas dudas, han formulado esas preguntas y han encontrado obstáculos similares a medida que discernían el camino de su vida. Algunas cuestiones son las mismas ahora que nunca, por ejemplo, la resistencia o oposición de los miembros de la familia a una vocación religiosa. En los últimos años,

la acumulación de deuda educativa se ha convertido en un obstáculo para los discernidores. Estas son sólo algunas de las cosas que hablamos durante la cena o durante las presentaciones de la noche.

Uno de los mayores obstáculos a superar es el temor de que al llegar a una velada de discernimiento o otro evento vocacional, una mujer tenga que estar lista para firmar en la línea punteada y hacer un compromiso final. ¡Nada más lejos de la verdad! Estos eventos no son ferias de reclutamiento para mujeres religiosas. Las Hermanas saben mejor que nadie que el proceso de discernir un llamado a la vida religiosa tiene lugar a lo largo de los años e incluye tiempos de claridad y duda, acercándose y alejándose. Aún más, ven su papel como recursos y co-escuchas del Espíritu Santo en el trabajo en cada persona. El objetivo es ayudar a cada mujer a encontrar el camino que la lleva a la vida que Dios la creó para vivir. Si esa es una vida religiosa consagrada entonces para ayudarla a encontrar la congregación y el carisma que es un buen ajuste para ella. Y si la vocación es casarse o dedicarse a una sola vida, entonces celebrar y afirmar esa vocación!

Otra oportunidad para que las mujeres discernan su



WEDNESDAY DISCERNMENT SUPPER

dirección de vida es un fin de semana de retiro planeado para el 3 al 5 de noviembre llamado “Ven y Veras ~ Come and See”. El modelo es similar al de la “Jornada Vocacional” de la Diócesis de Juárez. El primer retiro se centrará en los temas: ¿Quién soy yo? ¿Quién nos llama a la vida? ¿Cómo vivo en la plenitud de la vida? Se ofrecerán dos retiros adicionales en febrero y mayo con temas relacionados para el discernimiento. Los retiros se llevarán a cabo en el Centro de Retiro Dominicano en el Valle Bajo y comenzará el viernes a las 6 pm y concluirá el domingo a las 4 pm. Serán bilingües y estarán abiertos a mujeres solteras católicas de 18 a 40 años de edad. Para más información contactar a la Hermana Meggie en migdalia.

flores@doc.org 202-740-6569.

¿Conoces a alguien que crees que podría ser llamado a la vida religiosa? ¿Estaría usted dispuesto a contarle sobre las primeras miércoles, noches de discernimiento para las mujeres? Las próximas fechas son el 6 de septiembre, el 4 de octubre, el 1 de noviembre y el 6 de diciembre. ¿Puede compartir la información sobre el fin de semana del retiro en noviembre? Sí, Jesús todavía llama a las mujeres. ¡Todos necesitamos hacer nuestra parte para ayudarles a responder a la llamada! Para más información o para rsvp para la siguiente noche de discernimiento, contacte a la Hermana Janet en jgildea@elpasodiocese.org o llame/texto al 525-5882.

¡LAS HERMANAS ESCOLARES DE SAN FRANCISCO CELEBRAN SEXAGÉSIMO JUBILEO!

Por: Hermana Janet Gildea, SC, Enlace Para Mujeres Religiosas

La Hermana Frances Hicks y la Hermana Arlene Woelfel están celebrando sesenta años de vida consagrada como Hermanas Escolares de San Francisco. En junio, la congregación, con sede en Milwaukee, WI, celebró su celebración de jubileos importantes: 50, 60, 70, 75 y 80 años de vida religiosa.

Más de cincuenta hermanas marcaron estos hitos en esta misma congregación este año! Las Hermanas Fran y Arlene han servido en las Diócesis de El Paso y Juárez por un total combinado de veintinueve años. Ambos

forman parte de la Misión de Casa Alexia de la congregación en la frontera entre los Estados Unidos y México.

Antes y entre sus años de servicio aquí, la Hermana Fran sirvió como maestra, directora y pastora en Illinois, Nebraska y Perú. De manera similar, la Hermana Arlene fue maestra, trabajadora social y psicoterapeuta en Illinois, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Nicaragua y Guatemala. ¡Qué bienaventurados las tenemos con nosotros!

Las Hermanas celebraron su jubileo y renovaron sus votos en la parroquia de Santo Tomás

de Aquino durante la liturgia dominical de las 8:30 am del 27 de agosto. Más tarde, la comunidad dio la bienvenida a las hermanas, amigos y compañeros de trabajo a una casa abierta en la Casa Alexia. ¡Que el espíritu de San Francisco y Santa Clara renoven su dedicación y que Dios las bendiga con salud y fuerza por muchos años más de servicio! Gracias, Hermanas!



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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 comuniquen con la Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas, Sra. Susan Martínez, LCSW, al teléfono 872-8465 o con la Cancillería, 872-8407. La Iglesia desea sanar a toda persona que haya sido lastimada.



Bishop Seitz Intercedes With ICE to Keep Mom and Daughter Battling Cancer Together

By Dylan Corbett, Executive Director Hope Border Institute

On August 07, Bishop Mark Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso visited with authorities at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in an attempt to halt the deportation of a mom whose daughter is battling the effects of cancer. Less than 24 hours later, ICE granted a six-month stay of deportation to Maria Elena de Loera, granting her more time to stay with her 8-year-old daughter, Alia. Alia is currently undergoing treatment for a rare type of cancer that has affected her lungs after also having attacked her bones.

Two years ago, with her children at her side, Maria arrived legally to the border fleeing violence in Ciudad Juarez. Organized crime elements there had extorted and threatened the life of her husband and eventually murdered him. As happens to the majority of Mexican asylum seekers seeking refuge in El Paso, Maria's asylum claim was denied, but she was given permission to remain in the country to attend to the urgent medical needs of Alia.

Despite her daughter's ongoing critical condition, ICE recently informed Maria that her permission to remain in the United States for humanitarian reasons was to be terminated and that she was to be deported. Deportation

for Maria would have meant either separation from her daughter and other children or removing Alia from treatment at El Paso Children's Hospital. Similar treatment is unavailable in Mexico and since her husband's murder, Maria is the sole provider for her children.

After learning about Maria and her family's predicament, Bishop Seitz and members of the newly formed Diocesan Commission on Migration contacted local ICE authorities, asking them to reverse their decision. The Hope Border Institute, a Catholic advocacy organization based in El Paso, worked with Maria's attorney, Linda Rivas of Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, to bring Maria's case to the attention of federal lawmakers and national immigration advocates.

On the morning that Maria was instructed to report to her deportation officer, Bishop Seitz visited Maria and Alia at the hospital. The bishop spent time with the family and prayed for Alia's recovery. Then, accompanied by Ms. Rivas and priests of the Diocesan Migration Commission, Bishop Seitz went to ICE offices to plead on Maria's behalf. The next morning, Maria was informed of the happy news that she would be able to stay with



Bishop Seitz at ICE addresses media surrounded by the Diocesan Commission on Migration members Father Jose Morales, Monsignor Arturo Bañuelas and Father Rafael Garcia S.J.

her daughter for another six months as she continues treatment.

Bishop Seitz' actions came just weeks after the publication of his pastoral letter, Sorrow and Mourning Flee Away, in which he called attention to the human and moral consequences of a broken immigration

system and increased border militarization. After learning the outcome of his intervention to keep Maria's family together, the bishop said, "Maria and Alia are the human face of a broken immigration system. Putting a vulnerable family in jeopardy is the wrong thing to do. As people of faith

and as Americans, working for a more just immigration systems means ensuring that compassion wins out over cruelty."

Bishop Seitz' pastoral letter can be found online at www.bordermigrant.org.

Espanol en Pagina 13

BAZAAR 2017

St. Anthony's Seminary	Sept. 2,3,4
Holy Spirit	Sept. 8,9,10
San Juan Diego	Sept. 8,9,10
San Elizario	Sept. 15, 16, 17
El Buen Pastor	Sept. 15,16,17
St. Pius X	Sept. 29-30
La Purisima	Sept. 29, 30, Oct 1,2
Santa Teresa	Sept. 30
Guardian Angel	Oct. 1st
Fiesta del Sagrado Corazon	Oct. 27, 28, 29

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Christ the Savior Sept. 9, 10

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NEWS AROUND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St. Patrick Cathedral School kicks off 95th year!



St. Patrick Cathedral School kicked off its 95th Anniversary with a School Assembly on the first day of school, Aug. 7. The assembly consisted of a welcome address by Ms. Liliana Esparza, school principal, the Pledge of Allegiance, an opening prayer for the new school year by Father Andy of St. Patrick Cathedral, petitions led by a student, a parent and a teacher, a prayer to the school's patron saint, St. Patrick, and a blessing by parents to students and students to the parents.

Administrators have several events planned for the anniversary celebration and have adopted the theme: "Viva! St. Patrick Cathedral School – A celebration of our school culture and 95 years!" Some of the events planned are participating with St. Patrick Cathedral parishioners in the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade, a Fall gala, a special anniversary edition of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and other holidays/celebrations utilizing the "Viva!" theme. The school was founded by the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross in the Fall of 1923. The school originally had 220 students in grades first through seventh grade. Currently, the school houses 3K through eighth grade. "Quote," said Principal Esparza.

Any alumni from St. Patrick Cathedral School are invited to contact the school's main office to be added to the school's Alumni Database. The phone number is 915-532-4142.

St. Patrick sixth-graders create colorful artwork.

Students in Mr. Emil Chaparro's sixth-grade class have been creating works of art based on the theme: "Viva! Nuestra Escuela: 95 Years of Culture and Learning." The drawings and paintings are inspired by the school's theme this year: "Viva! St. Patrick Cathedral School. A celebration of our school, culture and 95 years!" The artwork will be curated in time for Diez y Seis de Septiembre. Mr. Chaparro expects the artwork to be displayed on Sept. 22 and will be on display in the hallway leading to the gymnasium. "The students are excited to produce works of art that bring their culture into focus while learning drawing and painting techniques," said Mr. Chaparro.

St. Patrick Cathedral School's 95th Anniversary Gala

To commemorate the school's 95th anniversary, the Home & School Association, along with school officials, are

planning a Gala to celebrate the school's anniversary. The gala is tentatively set for Friday, Dec. 1, at Grace Gardens, 6709 Westside. More information such as ticket prices, event time and a schedule of the gala events will be released in late September or early October. Proceeds from the event will benefit St. Patrick Cathedral School. The public is invited to the event with a special invitation being extended to alumni and friends of the school.

St. Raphael Catholic School

St. Raphael School has set in the 3rd week of school with students adjusting to the new school year. We are still looking forward to more extensive use of our technology in our classrooms. Students Pre-kinder to 4th grade will have access to one of our two COWs (Computers On Wheels cart). Students 5th - 8th grade will be making more use of their mobile device in the classrooms with our BYOD program.

Plan to join us for an exciting night at St. Raphael School's Inaugural Dinner & Dance Fundraiser "A Night at the Sunset". This is will take place on Friday, September 29, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at the 150 Sunset Event Center. The address is 150 Sunset Event Road. The fun night will include cocktails, dinner, casino games, silent auction and live music by The Tejas Band. Ticket cost are \$100 Single, \$175 per couple, \$1,500 for 10 guests. You may purchase tickets at the school front office (915) 598-2241 or by calling (915) 491-7952. All proceeds benefit St. Raphael School.

We have open house any time Monday - Friday. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may call the front office to schedule a school tour at (915) 598-2241.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School

After serving twenty-three years as a teacher at Our Lady of the Valley



School, Mr. Roberto Tucker retired. He taught second grade during his tenure at OLV School. Over the years he had seen parents he had taught as children bring their own children to OLV School. Prior to joining the OLV school community he taught at St. Michael's School in the second ward for five years where he taught fourth grade. He will be greatly missed.

OLV welcomes two

new teachers to its community. Regino Martinez will be replacing Mr. Tucker and teaching second grade. Mr. Martinez is a 1972 Cathedral High School graduate. He received most of his education while attending parochial schools including St. Ignatius, St. Mary's, and Our Lady of Assumption. Mr. Martinez has an extensive background as an educator. He taught for

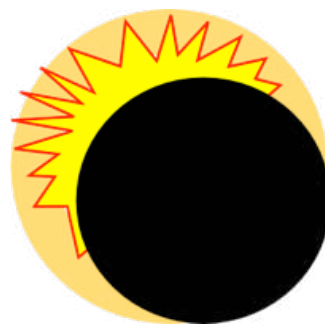


thirty-five years in the public-school setting teaching in fourth, fifth, seventh, and eighth grade. He worked in four area districts including Ysleta, Fabens, Clint, and Tornillo Independent School Districts. During his free time Mr. Martinez attends bible study at Our Lady of Assumption church and he assists there with other activities when needed. He mentions that teaching second grade will be a challenge but looking forward to working with his students. He said he will be focusing on reading and comprehension and math skills with his new students so they can be ready for the third grade.

The school's other new first grade teacher is Beatrice Macias. Ms. Macias is a 2000 UTEP graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor degree in Bilingual

Elementary Education. She has been teaching for ten years in the public-school sector including Ysleta and El Paso Independent School Districts. She has taught both second and third grade. Ms. Macias states that she loves OLV School's "awesome atmosphere, great staff and sense of community." She says she hopes the school's enrollment increases so it can continue to be involved in the community and give back to it. She also said that she will be focusing on making her first-grade students independent thinkers and by the end of the school year they will be able to write a paragraph fluently.

Our Lady of the Valley School has vacancies and registration is open for the 2017-2018 school year from 4K – eighth grade. To schedule a tour or for more information, please call the school office Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00pm at (915)859-6448 or visit www.olvschool.org or [www.Facebook.com/OLVCatholicSchool](https://www.facebook.com/OLVCatholicSchool).



St Pius Catholic School

Students at St. Pius X Catholic School gazed up to the sky to watch the total eclipse of the sun as they munched on Sun Chips, Mars

and Milky Way Chocolate Bars and cooling off with Galactic snow cones at their campus BLACKOUT BASH outdoor party. For weeks the middle school students had been preparing for this stellar event by making viewing glasses for the campus to safely watch the solar eclipse and learn about this scientific event. The total solar eclipse that crossed America, was an important moment for scientific observers and a massive nationwide spectator event. For many people of faith, it served as evidence of God's majesty and an act of God. The solar eclipse was showcased as a scientific and spiritual event for St. Pius X students, who were also celebrating the Feast of Pope Saint Pius X whose name has adorn their school for over 60 years. Mike Gravalos, St. Pius X middle school science teacher, said the families and students that gathered to watch the eclipse enjoyed the event despite the fact that the crowd was only able to see the eclipse up to 80 percent. The weeks leading up to the event was filled with much anticipation by the student as they prepared for the event, said Gravalos. "The last total solar eclipse took place 99 years ago and next one will take place in 2024."

Sponsoring the event was VIVA – Mitsubishi Auto Group who announced another Eclipse would be happening in 2018 with the arrival of the new Eclipse Cross. A cardboard cutout of the new vehicle was on display at the event.

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Fall 2017 at Tepeyac Institute

By Deacon Jesus Cadenas, Tepeyac Institute

In preparation for what is going to be Tepeyac's 30th Anniversary, we are working on some changes to the programs in order to facilitate the process for those parishioners who want to be installed by Bishop Seitz as ministers.

For any Catholic who wants to serve in our Diocese, the beginning of the process is the Christian Formation Program (CFP) which started on August 21st at the Martyrs of the Americas Hall, Queen of Peace and Holy Spirit parishes. There will be another six-weeks period starting on October 4th and it will be at the Martyrs of the Americas Hall, Queen of Peace and St.

Matthew parishes. The program consists of 12 sessions of 2-hours each. These sessions provide the participants with a basic knowledge of theology to better understand their call to ministry. The classes are every week for a six-week period in two different modalities: two weeknights for two hours or Saturdays' mornings for 4 hours.

The second part of the training is the Ministry Formation Program (MFP) that provides the theology behind every ministry. MFP provides practicum and details so that participants can conduct their ministry with a new, more enlightened perspective. This year we had 31 ministries'

training that prepared more than 600 installed ministers. These ministers were prepared to follow the mission of Jesus to be kings, prophets and priests.

This year, we are going to offer ministry training for lectors and extraordinary communion ministers after the first six-week period. Those attending this period can take the ministry training and be installed by Bishop Seitz on November 17th, 2017! For more information on other ministries, the MFP brochure will be available by the end of September so you can choose a ministry early.

We are very excited to begin a new group for the

St. Francis Biblical School Certification with classes taught by either Fr. Mauro Muñoz or Fr. Max Rangel. The first group graduated last April and more will graduate in November this year. The program is three-years long and the participants are learning a lot about Scripture and their faith.

Another change this Fall is in the Theology Certification program with increased class hours from 20 to 30 per class and the sessions from 10 to 12 sessions. Also added are exams to verify that the participants learn the key concepts during this time. This fall Fr. Rafael Garcia, SJ will teach Introduction to the Social Doctrine of the Church (Spanish),

Marco Raposo will teach Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching (English), Fr. Rogelio Martinez will teach Sacraments (Spanish) and Manuel Barrios LBSW, MPS (English). After the promulgation of Bishop Seitz's beautiful and enlightening Pastoral Letter on Migration we are launching the Migration Academy taught by Dylan Corbett, Executive Director at Hope Border Institute.

Our mission at Tepeyac Institute is to share the mission of the Church with our baptized family as we are all called to do great things in the name of Jesus.

Otoño 2017 en el Instituto de Tepeyac

Por Diacono Jesus Cadenas, Tepeyac Institute

En preparación para lo que va a ser nuestro XXX Aniversario, estamos trabajando en algunos cambios a los programas para facilitar el proceso para aquellos parroquianos que quieran ser instalados por el Obispo Seitz

como ministros.

Para cualquier Católico que quiera servir en nuestra Diócesis, el inicio del proceso es el Programa de Formación Cristiana (CFP) el cual inició el 21 de agosto en el Salón de Mártires de

las Américas, y en las Parroquias de Queen of Peace y Holy Spirit. Habrá otro periodo de seis semanas iniciando el 4 de octubre y será en el Salón de Mártires de las Américas y en las Parroquias Queen of Peace y San Mateo. El programa

consiste en 12 sesiones de 2-horas cada una. Estas sesiones dan a los participantes un conocimiento teológico básico para entender mejor su llamado al ministerio. Las clases son cada semana por un periodo de seis semanas en

dos modalidades diferentes: dos noches entre semana por dos horas o los sábados en la mañana por cuatro horas.




La segunda parte del entrenamiento es el Programa de Formación en Ministerio (MFP) que proporciona la teología detrás de cada ministerio, y además da prácticas y detalles para que los participantes puedan conducir sus ministerios bajo una nueva perspectiva más clara. Este año tuvimos entrenamiento en 31 ministerios que prepararon a más de 600 ministros que fueron instalados para seguir la misión de Jesús de ser reyes, profetas y sacerdotes. Este año, vamos ofrecer entrenamiento en ministerio para lectores y ministros extraordinarios de comunión después del periodo de seis semanas, para que quienes tomen el primer periodo, puedan tomar su entrenamiento en ministerio y ser instalados por el Obispo Seitz el 17 de Noviembre de este año! Para los otros ministerios, el folleto del MFP estará disponible a finales de Septiembre para que puedan escoger su ministerio con tiempo.

Estamos muy contentos de iniciar un nuevo grupo para la Certificación en Estudio Bíblico de San Francisco con clases por el Padre Mauro Muñoz o el Padre Max Rangel. El pasado abril graduamos al primer grupo y vamos a graduar a mas este noviembre. El programa dura tres años y los participantes están aprendiendo mucho sobre la Escritura y su fe.

Otro cambio este otoño es que la Certificación de Teología incremento las horas de clases de 20 a 30, las sesiones de diez a doce, y además agrego exámenes para verificar que los participantes hayan aprendido los conceptos claves durante este tiempo. Este otoño el Padre Rafael García SJ dará la *Introducción a la Doctrina Social de la Iglesia* (español), Marco Raposo enseñará *Introducción a la Enseñanza Social Católica* (Ingles), el Padre Rogelio Martinez dará la clase *Sacramentos* en Español y Manuel Barrios LBSW, MPS la dará en Inglés. Después de que nuestro Obispo nos dio su bella e iluminadora Carta Pastoral, vamos a tener la clase *Academia de Migración* por Dylan Corbett. Director de *Instituto Fronterizo Esperanza*.

Nuestra misión en el Instituto Tepeyac es compartir la misión de la Iglesia con todos los bautizados, ya que somos llamados a hacer grandes cosas en el nombre de Jesús.

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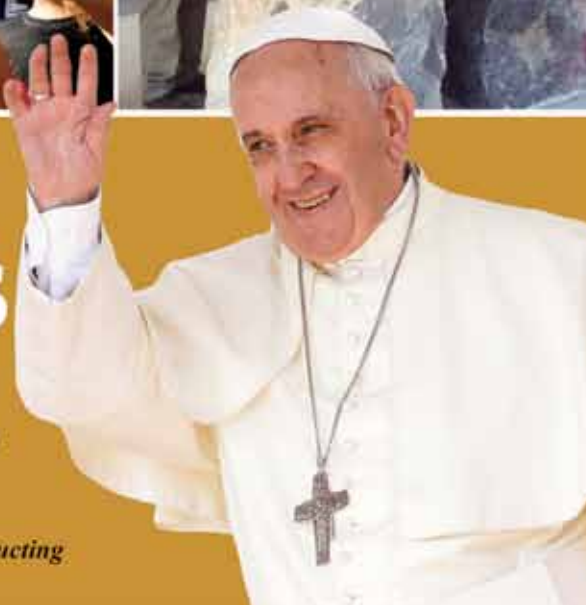
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THE “EXPENDIBLE CHILDREN”

Couples who struggle to get pregnant are turning with greater frequency to the in vitro fertilization (IVF) industry for assistance. In some cases, they can end up feeling they are “too pregnant” when twins, triplets or quads arise. This occurs from the practice of implanting more than one embryo at a time to improve pregnancy success rates. A multiplet pregnancy can involve significant risk, both for the children in utero, and for the mother. Because of these risks, the pregnant mother will sometimes be advised to opt for a “selective reduction,” where potassium chloride is injected into one or two of the growing babies, to cause their hearts to seize, followed by death and the gradual re-absorption of their bodies during the remainder of the pregnancy. This can allow the one or more remaining brothers or sisters to grow more safely and avoid further complications during the pregnancy. Given the incredible effort expended by the couple to become pregnant in the first place, these lethal practices often draw gasps of disbelief from others.

A New York Times Magazine article from 2011 chronicled the saga of a woman who

selectively reduced her pregnancy from twins to a single. Even though she tried to not think too much about the two ultrasound shadows within her, she was forthright about her justification for doing it: “If I had conceived these twins naturally, I wouldn’t have reduced this pregnancy, because you feel like if there’s a natural order, then you don’t want to disturb it. But we created this child in such an artificial manner — in a test tube, choosing an egg donor, having the embryo placed in me — and somehow, making a decision about how many to carry seemed to be just another choice. The pregnancy was all so consumerish to begin with, and this became yet another thing we could control.”

Her devastatingly honest appraisal of IVF and the way it devalues the lives of children offers an important opportunity for reflection. When we take it upon ourselves to manufacture new human life in test tubes, it indeed becomes another “thing we can control,” an object for our own willful manipulation, another means to realize our own goals. This “command and control mentality” over procreation sets up a glide path for us

to begin treating our own offspring like raw material, even tempting us to exercise an absolute, death-dealing dominion over them. As they are produced in the laboratory and transferred to the womb, our children can become an abstraction, mere pawns to be played in the end game of seeking what we want.

This attitude of seeing our offspring as expendable is becoming more widely accepted not only among IVF customers, but also among biomedical researchers themselves. In August, a highly troubling report was published describing the first successful editing of DNA in human embryos. The experiments were carried out in the laboratory of Shoukhrat Mitalipov at the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) and involved the generation of many dozens of embryos by IVF. The experiments utilized a new and highly precise DNA-editing technology called CRISPR-Cas9 to fix a defective, disease-causing gene that some of the embryos carried. While research into understanding and eliminating serious diseases is certainly good and praiseworthy as a goal, the techniques we employ

as we pursue good research goals need to be good as well. Doing evil that good may accrue, is, after all, still doing evil.

These research experiments performed on human embryos at OHSU were morally objectionable on a number of counts. If such genetically modified embryos had been allowed to grow up, there may well have been unintended effects from modifying their genes, unanticipated defects that they and future generations would bear. The problems and risks associated with this kind of “germ-line therapy” raise such serious concerns as to make it doubtful it should ever be attempted in humans. Even more distressing from the moral point of view is the fact that very young humans were treated not as ends, but as mere means to achieve particular investigative goals. They were created in laboratory glassware, experimented upon, their genes were tinkered with and they were killed and dispatched as research fodder into biohazard waste containers. The purported



*Making Sense
Out of
Bioethics*

Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

darkness of medieval times was never as dark as the remarkable ethical blackness that is descending upon contemporary “enlightened” man as he exploits and destroys his own offspring.

Vigilance and care are required when dealing with vulnerable research subjects, and human embryos are among the most vulnerable of God’s creatures, entrusted to us as our children, calling for stringent measures to ensure their protection and safeguard their human dignity.

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



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El Señor Obispo Intercede ante ICE para Mantener a Madre e Hija Juntas Mientras Combaten el Cáncer Juntas

Por Dylan Corbett, Director Ejecutivo del Instituto "Border Hope"

El día 7 de agosto, el Obispo Mark Seitz de la Diócesis de El Paso visitó las instalaciones de ICE (Control de Aduanas y Migración), en un intento por detener la deportación de una madre cuya hija está luchando contra los efectos del cáncer. Menos de 24 horas más tarde, ICE concedió una estadía de seis meses de deportación a María Elena de Loera, concediéndole más tiempo para quedarse con su hija de 8 años. Alía está actualmente en tratamiento para un tipo raro de cáncer que ha afectado sus pulmones después de haber atacado también sus huesos.

Hace dos años, con sus hijos al lado, María llegó legalmente a

la frontera huyendo de la violencia en Ciudad Juárez. Los elementos del crimen organizado allí habían extorsionado y amenazado la vida de su marido, al cual eventualmente asesinaron. Como sucede con la mayoría de los solicitantes de asilo mexicanos, que buscan refugio en El Paso, la solicitud de asilo de María fue denegada, pero se le dio permiso para permanecer en el país para atender las necesidades médicas urgentes de Alía.

A pesar de la condición crítica continua de su hija, ICE informó recientemente a María que su permiso para permanecer en los Estados Unidos por razones humanitarias se había terminado y que ella tenía que ser

deportada. La deportación para María significaría la separación de su hija y sus otros niños, o la eliminación del tratamiento de Alía de su tratamiento en El Paso "Children's Hospital". Este tratamiento similar no está disponible en México y desde el asesinato de su esposo, María es la única proveedora de sus hijos.

Después de enterarse de la situación de María y de su familia, el Obispo Seitz y miembros de la recién creada Comisión Diocesana sobre Migración, se pusieron en contacto con las autoridades locales de ICE pidiéndoles que revirtieran su decisión. El Instituto "Border Hope", organización católica de apoyo con sede en El Paso, trabajó con la abogada de María, Linda Rivas, del Centro de Inmigración de Las Américas, para llamar la atención de los legisladores federales y defensores de la inmigración.

La mañana en que María fue instruida para que informara a su oficial de deportación, el Obispo Seitz visitó a María y a Alía en el hospital. El Obispo pasó tiempo con la familia y oró por



Obispo Seitz saliendo de la junta con ICE.



Obispo Seitz en ICE con la Comisión Diocesana Sobre Migración Padre Jose Morales, Monseñor Arturo Bañuelas y Padre Rafael Garcia S.J.

la recuperación de Alía. Luego, acompañado por la Sra. Rivas y los sacerdotes de la Comisión Diocesana de Migración, el Obispo Seitz fue a las oficinas de ICE para abogar en nombre de María. A la mañana siguiente, María fue informada de la feliz noticia de que ella podría permanecer con su hija por otros seis meses mientras continúa el tratamiento.

Las acciones del Señor Obispo Seitz ocurrieron pocas semanas después de la publicación de su carta pastoral, "Sorrow and Mourning Flee Away", El Dolor y el Luto Huyen, en la que llamó la atención sobre las consecuencias humanas y morales de un sistema

de inmigración roto y el aumento de la militarización fronteriza. Después de conocer el resultado de su intervención para mantener a la familia de María unida, el Obispo dijo: "María y Alía son el rostro humano de un sistema de inmigración roto. Poner a una familia vulnerable en peligro es una cosa muy incorrecta de hacer. Como personas de fe y como estadounidenses, trabajar por unos sistemas de inmigración más justos significa asegurar que la compasión gane ante la crueldad".

La carta pastoral del Señor Obispo Seitz se puede encontrar en línea, ingresando a: www.bordermigrant.org.



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Presenter: Marco Raposo

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Time: 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Place: Pinto Room - 499 St. Matthews St. El Paso TX. 79907

Presenter: Jose Manny Barrios

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Horario: 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Lugar: Salón Pinto - 499 St. Matthews St. El Paso TX. 79907

Presentador: Padre Rafael García

"Sacramentos, Incluyendo RCIA"

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Horario: 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Lugar: Salón Pinto - 499 St. Matthews St. El Paso TX. 79907

Presentador: Padre Rogelio Martinez

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ST. RAPHAEL CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

By Nancy Ramos, Rio Grande Catholic Editor

St. Raphael Church was established in 1966 as a mission of St. Pius X after census revealed 800 Catholic families living in East El Paso. The first church, now the parish hall, was constructed in 1966. Fathers Ed Erzen and Bill Steffen served as pastors until the mission was decreed a parish on August 15, 1967 by Bishop Metzger. Rev. Richard J. Arlt was appointed the first resident priest in 1967. Bishop Peña dedicated St. Raphael Catholic Church on December 23, 1979. The St. Raphael Women’s Guild, formed in March 1969, donated the hand-carved wooden statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary that is in the church.

From the community’s beginning, the religious formation program has worked to move children to know, love, and honor their Catholic heritage. The Adult Choir was formed in 1971 under the direction of Mary Maly Burdett. Since then, the Music Ministry at St. Raphael Church has grown to include various groups providing music at Sunday Masses. Other parish groups include the Knight of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of the Americas and St. Vincent de Paul. Several priests including

Monsignor A. Dixon Hartford, Father Robert Getz, and Father Stephen Peters have served the parish. In 1986, Monsignor Francis J. Smith became the pastor and was appointed Vicar General for the Diocese by Bishop Peña. Over the years, the congregation has grown from 400 families to more than 3,000 today. The parish, which includes a shrine for the unborn, is a strong advocate for the sanctity of life.

The beginnings of St. Raphael School date to 1967 when a preschool was opened at the parish for four-year olds. Mrs. Lilia Crow was the first teacher and remained at the preschool until May 1976. In September 1977, Mrs. Elizabeth Wiehe accepted the position of teacher. She built the school into one of the premier Catholic schools in El Paso first as teacher and then as principal beginning in 1990 until her death in 2011. In 1980 Pastor, Reverend Robert L. Getz, allowed the pre-school, which had existed since 1967, to be changed into a kindergarten. “Build for Tomorrow,” was launched for the educational complex that was to be called St. Raphael School. In August

1986 the \$1.3 million building was complete. His Excellency, Bishop Reymundo Peña, assisted by Monsignor Francis J. Smith, blessed the building and officially opened the newest Catholic School in the El Paso Diocese.

In 2015, Bishop Mark J. Seitz appointed Rev. Anthony C. Celino pastor of St. Raphael as Father Celino continued his position at the Diocese as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. In 2016, Ms. Odette Yapor was appointed principal of St. Raphael School and continues as principal today.

This year, Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Smith, P.A. celebrates his 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Msgr. Smith served as shepherd of St. Raphael Parish and School for 29 years. Msgr. Smith is better known for his humor, tenacity and intelligence. This year in honor of Msgr. Smith’s 50 years of service to the Church, an endowed scholarship fund for St. Raphael School has been established in his name.

On August 15, 2017 St. Raphael Parish celebrated its 50th Anniversary mass presided over by Most Reverend Bishop Mark J.



Mrs. Allene Boyle congratulates Monsignor Smith

The mass was broadcasted live on The Bridge 1150a, the only Catholic Radio Station for the Borderland. Concelebrating priests included Father Tony Celino, Father Cong Vo Father Stephen Peters. Monsignor Arturo Bañuelas, Father Gleen Carpe, Father Andy de Guzman and Father Richard Waiwood. A presentation to Monsignor Smith was made in the form of a plaque for his long time service to the parish and a \$10,000 donation was made to the Monsignor Francis J. Smith Scholarship Fund for St. Raphael School.

Arlene Boyle, St. Raphael’s 100-year-old parishioner was also recognized during this mass for her long-standing service to this parish community. Arlene came to St. Raphael when it was a mission in 1966 and served in ministry up until this year when she completed her service as a St. Raphael’s Health Minister. She says she remembers the first mass celebrated by Father Erzen in 1966. Boyle says, “I asked him if I could help him since he was doing it all by himself. Setting up the altar, getting the vestments out and all of that. I told him I can help

you.” She said, “Father Erzen was so grateful and told her he would love for her to help.” Proudly Mrs. Boyle proclaims, “Since that day I became the first sacristan that St. Raphael ever had.” She recalls once serving to clean the parish hall along side her son. “I remember one time we had suspicions about the janitor drinking the wine so we marked it and checked it one morning and sure enough the janitor had been drinking it,” Boyle said. The janitor was dismissed so my son took the job over for a while until we replaced the janitor. She says, “I felt bad for my son cause he was so skinny so I would help him.” Her favorite memories of the parish were serving with Monsignor Smith was pastor. She says Msgr. Smith was always there for her. “I am so happy to be alive and be able to be a part of this celebration”, says Mrs. Boyle.

Steve Maule, long time parishioner at St. Raphael since 1978 and former RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Director says, “ St. Raphael is my spiritual family and includes a lot of people but in particular at the 8:15 a mass. They are second to my natural family. I would no more leave St. Raphael’s because of my spiritual family than I would my natural family.” Steve says RCIA at St. Raphael is what defines him. He believes RCIA is his mission and we strive to form Christ is a person’s heart. He too remembers Msgr. Smith as a good faith leader but also as a very understanding one too.

St. Raphael’s 50th Anniversary motto is Remember, Worship and Believe. Father Celino’s letter to his parish on this anniversary states, “We REMEMBER the service of so many great priests and deacons and the cooperation of countless lay faithful, who established the Parish Church and laid its foundation fully grounded in our faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us in this beautiful place to WORSHIP God and proclaim his message of salvation to all! We plant seeds of hope and firmly BELIEVE that the future generation of pastors, ministers and lay faithful of St. Raphael will carry on the message of Christ. Congratulations St. Raphael Catholic Church!



Bishop Seitz Celebrates the 50th Anniversay Mass

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SAN RAPHAEL CELEBRA SU JUBILEO DE ORO

Por Nancy Ramos, Editora de Rio Grande Catholic

La Iglesia San Rafael se estableció en 1966 como una misión de San Pío X., después de que el censo reveló que 800 familias católicas vivía ya en el Este de El Paso. La primera iglesia, ahora sala parroquial, fue construida en 1966. Los Padres Ed Erzen y Bill Steffen sirvieron como pastores hasta que la misión fue decretada parroquia, el 15 de agosto de 1967 por el Obispo Metzger. El Rev. Richard J. Arlt fue nombrado el primer sacerdote residente en 1967. El obispo Peña dedicó la Iglesia Católica San Rafael el 23 de diciembre de 1979. El Gremio de Mujeres de San Rafael, formado en marzo de 1969, donó la estatua de madera tallada a mano de la Santa Virgen María, la cual está en la iglesia.

Desde el comienzo de la comunidad, el programa de formación religiosa ha trabajado para que los niños conozcan, amen y honren a su herencia católica. El coro de adultos se formó en 1971, bajo la dirección de Mary Maly Burdett. Desde entonces, el ministerio de música en la iglesia de St. Raphael ha crecido para incluir a varios grupos, quienes proporcionan música en las misas dominicales. Otros grupos parroquiales son los Caballero de Colón, las Hijas Católicas de las Américas y San Vicente de Paúl. Varios sacerdotes como monseñor A. Dixon Hartford, el padre Robert Getz y el padre Stephen Peters han servido a la parroquia. En 1986, Monseñor Francis J. Smith se convirtió en pastor y fue nombrado Vicario General de la Diócesis, por el Obispo Peña. Con los años, la congregación ha crecido de 400 familias a más de 3.000, hoy en día. La parroquia, la cual incluye un santuario para los no nacidos, es una fuerte defensora de la santidad de la vida.

Los inicios de la Escuela

San Rafael datan de 1967, cuando se abrió en la parroquia un preescolar para niños de cuatro años. La Sra. Lilia Crow fue la primera maestra y permaneció en el preescolar hasta mayo de 1976. En septiembre de 1977, la Sra. Elizabeth Wiehe aceptó el puesto de maestra. Ella convirtió a la escuela en una de las primeras escuelas católicas en El Paso y sirvió primero como maestra y luego como principal, comenzando en 1990 hasta su muerte en el 2011. En 1980 el Pastor, Reverendo Robert L. Getz, permitió que la preescolar, que había existido desde 1967, fuese cambiada como jardín para infantes. “Construye para el Mañana”, fue lanzado para el complejo educativo que se llamaría Escuela San Rafael. En agosto de 1986 el edificio de \$1.3 millones estaba completo. Su Excelencia el Obispo Reymundo Pena, asistido por Monseñor Francis J. Smith, bendijo el edificio y abrió oficialmente la más nueva Escuela Católica en la Diócesis de El Paso. Cada año se agregaron grados adicionales. En el año escolar de 1994-95, se construyó un anexo principal compuesto por 8 aulas más. Contiene el pre-jardín Infantil, 3 guarderías, 3 salones para los primeros grados y una sala de música/bellas artes. Del 1980-81, la inscripción para el Jardín Infantil fue de 25 estudiantes con crecimiento continuo hasta el presente. En el 2015, el obispo Mark J. Seitz nombró al reverendo Anthony C. Celino párroco de San Rafael. Al continuar el padre Celino su posición en la diócesis como vicario general y moderador de la Curia, en el 2016, la Sra. Odette Yapora fue nombrada directora de

la Escuela San Rafael.

Este año, el Rev. Mons. Francis J. Smith, P.A. celebra su 50 aniversario de ordenación sacerdotal. Monseñor Smith sirvió como pastor de la parroquia y escuela San Rafael durante 29 años. Monseñor Smith es mejor conocido por su humor, tenacidad e inteligencia. Este año en honor de Monseñor y sus 50 años de servicio en la Iglesia, se ha establecido en su nombre un fondo de becas para la Escuela San Rafael.

El 15 de agosto del 2017 la parroquia celebró su Misa del 50 aniversario presidida por el Reverendo Mons. Mark J. Seitz, D.D. La misa fue transmitida en directo desde la Radio el Puente 1150a, única estación de radio católica para la frontera. Entre los sacerdotes con-celebrantes se incluyeron al Padre Tony Celino, el Padre Cong Vo, el Padre Stephen Peters, Monseñor Arturo Bañuelas, el Padre Gleen



Monseñor Smith en la misa del aniversario

Carpe, el Padre Andy de Guzmán y el Padre Richard Waiwood. Se presentó a Monseñor Smith con una placa por su largo tiempo de servicio en la parroquia y se hizo un donativo en la cantidad de \$10.000 para el fondo escolar para la Escuela San Rafael, en honor de Monseñor Francis J. Smith.

Arlene Boyle, feligrés de 100 años de San Rafael, también

fue homenajeada durante esta misa, por su larga estancia y servicio en esta comunidad parroquial. Arlene vino a San Rafael cuando era apenas una misión en 1966 y sirvió en el ministerio, hasta este año cuando ella terminó su servicio como Ministro de Salud en San Rafael. Ella dice que recuerda la primera misa celebrada por el padre Erzen en 1966. Boyle menciona: “Le pregunté al padre si podía ayudarlo, ya que lo hacía todo por sí mismo. Poner el altar, sacar las vestiduras y todo eso. Le dije que le podía ayudar. “El padre Erzen estaba muy agradecido y dijo que le encantaría que yo ayudara.” Proclama orgullosamente, la señora Boyle. “Desde ese día me convertí en el primer sacristán de San Rafael. Ella recuerda una vez sirviendo para limpiar el pasillo parroquial junto a su hijo: “Recuerdo que una vez tuvimos sospechas de que el conserje se bebía el vino, así que lo marcamos y lo revisamos una mañana y si, efectivamente, el conserje había estado bebiendo”, dijo Boyle. El conserje fue despedido por lo que mi hijo tomó el trabajo durante un tiempo hasta que lo sustituimos. Ella dice: “Me sentí mal por mi hijo porque estaba muy flaco, así que esto le ayudaría”. Los recuerdos favoritos en parroquia fue estar sirviendo con Monseñor Smith cuando él era pastor. Ella dice que Monseñor Smith siempre estaba allí para ella. “Estoy muy feliz de estar viva y ser capaz de ser parte de esta celebración”, dice la Sra. Boyle.

Steve Maule, parroquiano de San Rafael desde



15 de agosto, Misa del Aniversario

1978 y ex director de la RCIA (Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos), dice: “San Rafael es mi familia espiritual, la cual incluye a mucha gente, pero muy en particular a los de la Misa de las 8:15, ya que ellos son casi mi segunda familia natural. No dejaría a San Rafael por mi familia espiritual más que por mi familia natural”. Steve dice que RCIA en San Rafael es lo que lo define. Él cree que RCIA es su misión y que se esfuerza por formar a Cristo en el corazón de las personas. También recuerda a Monseñor Smith como un líder de buena fe, pero también como una persona muy comprensiva.

El tema del 50mo. Aniversario de San Rafael es; Recuerda, Adora y Cree. La carta del Padre Celino a su parroquia en este aniversario dice: “Recordamos el servicio de tantos grandes sacerdotes y diáconos, además de la cooperación de innumerables fieles laicos que establecieron la Iglesia Parroquial y colocaron su fundamento en nuestra fe en Jesucristo. ¡El Espíritu Santo nos reúne en este hermoso lugar para Adorar a Dios y proclamar su mensaje de salvación a todos! Plantamos semillas de esperanza y Creemos firmemente que la futura generación de pastores, ministros y fieles laicos de San Rafael, seguirá el mensaje de Cristo. ¡Enhorabuena para la Iglesia Católica de San Rafael!

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“UNA COMUNIDAD, UNA MISION”

“Trabajando unidos para crear un desarrollo humano integral para todos”

Fr. Rafael Garcia, SJ

Keynote/Orador

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

TOGETHER
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When:
Monday, September 18, 2017

Time:
6:15 pm Registration
6:30 pm Welcome & Program till 9:00 pm

Place:
11700 Pebble Hills
St. Mark Catholic Church
Starting at the Placita

Presenters:
+ Alondra, Teens4Unity of The Focolare Movement t
+ St. Mark Special Need Ministry
+ Special Guests

BRING WHITE-T SHIRT OR BANDANA
Drinks and snacks will be offered.
Proceeds to benefit Soñador/Dreamers Fund
Contact: Sandra Castro, 726-1102 email: teens4Unity@yahoo.com

A Year of Experiences

By: Father Mariano Lopez, Director- Vocation Office

“It is important for families to be part of the seminary process and priestly life, since they help to reaffirm these and to keep them well grounded in reality. It is helpful for seminarians to combine time in the seminary with time spent in parishes. There they can have greater contact with the concrete realities of family life, since in their future ministry they will largely be dealing with families” (Amoris Laetitia 203). While the Pope’s exhortation, Amoris Laetitia, is not primarily about seminary formation, it does insist on the importance of ensuring that seminarians receive a solid preparation for the priesthood outside of an institutional setting.

This year, three El Paso seminarians, will be responding to this calling from Pope Francis as they engage in a pastoral internship for an entire year. They will leave the security and stability of their seminary environment where many things have instantly been provided so that they may focus on studies and their personal development, and now they will have the opportunity that to ensure that others are provided for. While

parish priests are blessed with assistance from many members of their communities and from different hired services (in the case of higher income parishes), the priest must ensure that the bills are paid, that light bulbs are replaced when they are burnt out, that church facilities are clean and orderly, that faith formation is being imparted to the entire community, that the liturgy is celebrated in a dignified manner and that the word of God is prepared for others to hear, among many other things. Our three seminarians will participate in a year that transitions them, spiritually and practically, from spiritual sons to spiritual fathers. After a year of pastoral internship, they will return to their seminaries in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mundelein, Illinois, and Houston, Texas. Then, they will engage in their last years of studies with greater awareness of the ministry of the priesthood.

Within this experience, the seminarian is not released in isolation into a demanding and fast-paced environment of parish ministry. Instead, he is assigned to a pastor who will mentor him in the process. The seminarian pastoral

assignment is determined with great consideration for mentorship. The diocese desires that seminarian interns receive the proper balance between companionship and challenge. The priests mentors for this cycle of internships are Very Rev. Ben Flores (Blessed Sacrament Parish), Rev. Saul Pacheco (Our Lady of Assumption Parish), and Rev. Jose Cruz Longoria (West Texas Catholic Communities). There is great appreciation for the commitment and responsibility these priests have accepted as they receive, and accompany, a seminarian in their parish.

It is understood that the parish communities that have been selected as pastoral internship sites are communities of committed faith that will assist the seminarian in his process of becoming a priest according to the heart of Jesus Christ. As the people from these parishes interact with the seminarian they enrich him and are enriched by him. Seminarians are able to assist the poor in their parishes through participation in social justice ministries, they provide support and guidance to ministry groups, they visit

the sick, and become part of very important moments in the life of the people of God. It is a joy for the parishioners of the selected parishes to know that they have prepared a future priest for the Diocese of El Paso.

Christus Alapini, who is originally from Benin, Africa and who is currently studying at Saint Mary’s Seminary in Houston, will be assigned to serve in the West Texas Catholic Communities seated in Pecos, Texas. Ivan Montelongo, who is originally from Chihuahua, a graduate of Socorro High School in El Paso and currently studying at Mundelein Seminary near



Seminarian Miguel Perez will serve at Blessed Sacrament Parish

Chicago, will serve at Our Lady of Assumption Parish. Miguel Perez, who is originally from Colombia and who is currently studying at Sacred Heart Seminary in Milwaukee, will be assigned to serve at Blessed Sacrament Parish. Please keep them in your prayers!

Un Año de Experiencias

Por: Padre Mariano Lopez, Director-Oficina de Vocaciones

“Los vínculos familiares son fundamentales para fortalecer la sana autoestima de los seminaristas. Por ello es importante que las familias acompañen todo el proceso del seminario y del sacerdocio, ya que ayudan a fortalecerlo de un modo realista. En ese sentido, es saludable la combinación de algún tiempo de vida en el seminario con otro de vida en parroquias, que permita tomar mayor contacto con la realidad concreta de las familias” (Amoris Laetitia 203). Mientras la exhortación del Papa, Amoris Laetitia, no

se enfoca en la formación de seminaristas, si insiste que los seminaristas deben recibir una formación sólida para el sacerdocio fuera del ambiente institucional.

Este año, tres seminaristas de El Paso, responderán a este llamado del Papa Francisco al participar en un año pastoral. Dejaran la seguridad y estabilidad de un ambiente de seminario, donde muchas cosas se proporcionan instantáneamente para que se enfoquen en sus estudios y desarrollo personal, y ahora tendrán la oportunidad de asegurarse que otros reciban lo que ellos necesitan. Mientras los sacerdotes parrocos tienen la bendición de la colaboración de los fieles y de diferentes servicios contratados (en el caso de parroquias de mayor ingreso), el sacerdote debe asegurarse que las utilidades estén pagadas, los bombillos se a n reemplazados cuando se funden, los edificios de la iglesia estén limpios

y ordenados, la formación de fe se imparta a la comunidad entera, la liturgia sea celebrada con dignidad y que la palabra de Dios sea preparada para que otros la escuchen, entre otras cosas. Nuestros tres seminaristas participaran en un año de transición, espiritualmente y prácticamente, al pasar de ser hijos espirituales a ser padres espirituales. Después del año pastoral, regresan a sus seminarios en Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mundelein, Illinois, y Houston, Texas. Luego, entraran en sus últimos años de estudios con mayor conciencia de lo que incluye el ministerio sacerdotal.

Dentro de esta experiencia, el seminarista no es enviado en aislamiento a un ambiente acelerado y exigente de ministerio parroquial. Más bien, es asignado a un párroco quien lo guíara por el proceso. La asignación pastoral se determina tomando en cuenta este acompañamiento. La diócesis desea que el seminarista reciba un balance entre ser retado y ser acompañado. Los sacerdotes para este ciclo de año pastoral son el Rev. Ben Flores (Parroquia del Santísimo Sacramento), Rev. Saúl Pacheco (Parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Asunción), y el Rev. José Cruz Longoria (Comunidades Católicas del Oeste de Texas). Se agradece y valora el compromiso y responsabilidad de estos sacerdotes al recibir, y acompañar, al seminarista en su parroquia.

Se comprende que la comunidad parroquial seleccionada es una comunidad de fe que ayudará al seminarista en su proceso de convertirse en sacerdote según el corazón de Jesucristo. Los fieles de la parroquia son enriquecidos al acompañar al seminarista, y él es enriquecido por ellos también. Los seminaristas pueden asistir a los pobres de la parroquia al participar en ministerios de justicia social, proporcionan apoyo y orientación a los ministerios parroquiales, visitan a los enfermos, y participan en momentos muy importantes en la vida del pueblo de Dios. Es una alegría para los feligreses de las parroquias seleccionadas saber que han ayudado a preparar a un futuro sacerdote para la Diócesis de El Paso. Christus Alapini, originalmente de Benin, África y estudiante del Seminario Santa María en Houston, será asignado a server en las Comunidades del



Seminarian Ivan Montelongo will serve at Our Lady of Assumption Parish

Oeste de Texas centralizadas en Pecos, Texas. Iván Montelongo, originalmente de Chihuahua, quien estudio en la Preparatoria de Socorro en El Paso y actualmente estudia en el Seminario de Mundelein cerca de Chicago, servirá en la Parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. Miguel Perez, originalmente de Colombia y estudiante del Seminario Sagrado Corazón en Milwaukee, estará asignado a la Parroquia del Santísimo Sacramento. ¡Por favor oren por ellos!



Seminarian Christus Alapini will serve at the West Texas Catholic Communities

CONVIVIR

Los peligrosos cocodrilos conviven amigablemente con un ave zancuda conocida con el nombre de arenario. Después de alimentarse, el cocodrilo se tumba al sol con la boca abierta, cerca a los ríos o los lagos. Entonces el arenario se introduce en la boca del saurio y le hace una cuidadosa limpieza dental. Es un servicio reciproco, ya que al mismo tiempo se está alimentando de los restos de comida que quedan entre los dientes del feroz cocodrilo. Una vez satisfecho, el arenario sale tranquilamente de la boca del cocodrilo y ambos siguen tan amigos. Abundan los ejemplos en la naturaleza, que nos ofrecen casos parecidos de entendimiento entre especies de animales aparentemente irreconciliables, que se ayudan y se sirven sin violencia ni odios...

Son ejemplos tan llamativos, que tal vez los seres humanos entenderíamos mejor, si comprendiéramos que la diversidad de razas, culturas, ideologías, creencias... Son parte consubstancial de nuestra vida humana racional y cultural, que debemos aprender a tolerar y no hacer de la diversidad detonantes de conflictos y odios irracionales que nos desenfocan de los reales problemas que juntos debemos solucionar para bien de todos. Los cristianos debemos ser

ejemplo de una sana y respetuosa convivencia humana, porque tenemos un padre común que es DIOS, que ama y le gusta la diversidad, expresión de su poder creativo y posibilidades inmensa para nosotros los seres humanos.

Nuestra meta debe ser la de aprender a convivir en el amor, el respeto y la esperanza de llegar un día a ser “la familia humana” que Dios ha querido desde la creación del mundo. Así podremos comprobar cuan cierto es lo que decía, Herman Hesse: “La felicidad es amor, no es otra cosa. EL QUE SABE AMAR ES FELIZ”!

Toda crisis es manejable si tenemos un alma fuerte y somos ricos en fe, esperanza y amor. De ahí que uno nunca se sorprenda de ver personas animosas y alegres que llevan pesadas cruces sin una queja. Su secreto está en su riqueza espiritual que cultivan con una fe viva, con oración, el afecto y un permanente balance de lo que tienen y no de lo que les falta. Otro de los secretos de las personas serenas ante una crisis es el profundo realismo que cultivan. En lugar de revelarse contra lo inevitable, lo aceptan con calma y no malgastan energías en el lamento o las quejas. Así con una aceptación amorosa, miran el lado amable de la vida y se rien de sus limitaciones o soportan

con paz una enfermedad o una sensible pérdida.

Si yo lo quiero, también puedo cambiar mi pesimismo por optimismo con una vida espiritual intensa. Es lo mejor que se puede hacer para no estar muerto en vida. Casi siempre los límites que frenan a los seres humanos son frutos del pesimismo, la desconfianza o la ignorancia. Es triste que la mayoría de los seres humanos solo se motiven ante una crisis. Superada esta vuelven a su “zona de comodidad”.

Cuántos están dispuestos a seguir escalando? Cuántos son capaces de insistir hasta que un NO repetido muchas veces se transforme en un SI? Cuántos están dispuestos a analizar su manera de VER y PENSAR de los que son diferentes a nosotros? Cuántos están dispuestos a DIALOGAR para ESCUCHAR y APRENDER a compartir la cosmovisión de la realidad que nos mueve a actuar de manera diferente? Cuántos están dispuestos a DARSE una NUEVA OPORTUNIDAD para encontrar maneras de CONVIVIR en esta casa común, la tierra? Se cuenta que muchos criticaban a San Francisco de Sales por ser tan indulgente y bondadoso con los pecadores y él respondía: “Si existiera una virtud más alta que la bondad, Dios no la habría

enseñado. Lo que sabemos es que a nada exhorto tanto Jesús como a ser mansos y humildes de corazón. El amor se muestra en la bondad.” Solía repetir esta frase: “Estoy convencido que la mejor manera de predicar a los que hacen el mal es el amor, aun sin decir una sola palabra”.

El mejor elogio que se puede hacer de nosotros no nace de nuestra fama, figura, poder o riqueza, sino del amor compasivo que nos convierte en faros de luz. La compasión no es un pesar distante ni una lástima que repugna; la compasión es ese amor que nos mueve a ser Buenos Samaritanos, como leemos en Lucas 10, 29-37. Somos ricos no porque poseemos sino porque compartimos, porque somos solidarios y serviciales. El amor verdadero nos da mil ojos para ver quién nos necesita, y mil manos para acudir en su servicio. Así aprobamos a diario el único examen importante: “El examen del amor” Mateo 25, 31-46. En el mundo hay más ángeles que demonios; hay muchos seres bondadosos que siembran amor y



Vida del Espiritu por el Padre Wilson Cuevas

crean hermandad. En este mundo hay sembradores de esperanza, que se esfuerzan y hacen el bien con amor y alegría. Todos conocemos estos ángeles y sus ejemplos, todos días nos encontramos con testimonios de personas que comparten con alegría su tiempo, sus bienes y sus talentos. Ojala que estos ejemplos te animen a asumir hoy mismo algún compromiso social. Al final de nuestra vida solo cuenta el bien que cada uno haya hecho. En la vida uno constata que muchos ateos no son ateos y muchos creyentes no son creyentes! Hoy estamos aquí, mañana no se sabe, has el bien ahora, quizás mañana sea tarde! Todos estamos en capacidad de hacer mucho bien, debemos saberlo y hacerlo; porque CONVIVIR es COMPARTIR, esa es la clave para saber vivir en paz en esta tierra estamos llenos de inmensas posibilidades para ser felices y contribuir a la felicidad de los demás. Animo! ÚNETE!!!

LIFE IS A WORKABLE, PRACTICAL, WORTHWHILE PLAN

Early this morning, I sat outside in the coolness and enjoyed the medley of plants growing in my garden. Dainty white flowers sprinkled their fragile beauty along green stalks. Yellow, orange and maroon Mexican hats danced in the breeze. I happily sipped my coffee, delighted that so many of the assorted wildflowers had survived their unexpected trauma.

In July, I shared with you this intriguing gift from my son. Not a bouquet of flowers but a carpet of wildflower seeds which after weeks of diligent care had resulted in just a few tiny green sprouts. But over the next few weeks, the garden bouquet began to thrive. Each flower’s appearance was cause for celebration. My garden bouquet was going to make it, and I had only provided the soil in which the seeds could grow, the nutrition of daily watering, and the time the seeds needed to develop into mature plants.

However, an emergency called us away from home and there was not enough rain to provide the plants’ needs. We returned home to a plot of shriveled, brown twigs. How sad to see wilted petals of once lovely blossoms and withered stems of what had been leafy green plants. Someone remarked that the seeds were probably not viable so they would not have lasted anyway. Not viable? What does that mean? Dictionaries define the term “viable” as able to live and grow such as a plant. Dictionaries describe “viable” as something, such as an idea, design, or plan, that is feasible, practical, workable, possible, achievable, useful,

attainable, doable, or worthwhile.

According to dictionaries, my wildflower garden was definitely viable from its very beginning as a carpet of seeds. The seeds already had the blueprint imbedded within them to grow and develop. It was practical and achievable, as evidenced by the seeds growing sturdy stems, sprouting green leaves, and blossoming with delicate flowers. The only problem was that we had taken away the water – we had removed the part that allowed it to be feasible and possible for the plants to grow and continue living. It did not change their viability, the lack of water simply killed what had once been viable.

Similarly, the definition of “viable” gives an interesting twist when referring to a preborn child. A seed is viable with only soil and water. An idea is viable with appropriate resources and time in which to develop. In the same way, from the moment of conception a preborn baby has the blueprint or plan for development and growth, and he is viable with the appropriate time, nutrition and a place to grow. Those are the same requirements for the flowers in my garden – time, water, and soil. But a preborn baby is not judged as viable until he or she has reached the stage of development to be considered capable of living outside the uterus.

In the case of a child, the term “viable” actually refers to scientific progress, not the ability of the child to live. A hundred years ago an infant born prematurely would not be expected to live.

Today, we have the technology to imitate the same normal location in which a preborn baby thrives and to allow the baby to continue his or her development until mom and dad can take over from scientific advances and bring the baby home.

At conception, the baby has the blueprint or plan to develop everything needed for a healthy life. Without any extra resources, the preborn baby travels through the fallopian tubes to implant in the lining of the wall of the mother’s uterus. So, the baby has planted himself in the rich soil needed to continue developing. Nutrition is provided to the child without the mother needing any different resources to sustain the child’s life than she herself needs. A preborn child requires less to continue living, growing and developing than compared to the additional resources required for most ideas or designs.

No one is capable of living without the basics of nutrition, time, and a safe place to live. Not a healthy adult, not a teenager, not an infant and not a preborn baby. Viability is defined by scientific advances, not the developmental stage of the preborn child. With time, a safe location and nutrition, the preborn child is viable from the moment of conception. He is

already alive, growing, developing and thriving.

Also growing is my garden which makes me smile. Before returning to the house’s air-conditioned coolness, a safe location against the rising heat, I took one more look at the flowers blooming in the garden.



Sidewalk Jesus by Janet M. Crowe

Thankfully, we had not given up on the patch of dried twigs. Instead, after returning home, we had resumed regular watering and with time and water, the wildflowers are once again thriving. With time, safety and nutrition so will a child – born or preborn.

“Let us be builders of the kingdom of God.”

Miner Awakening Oct 6, 7, 8

Guardian Angel Church

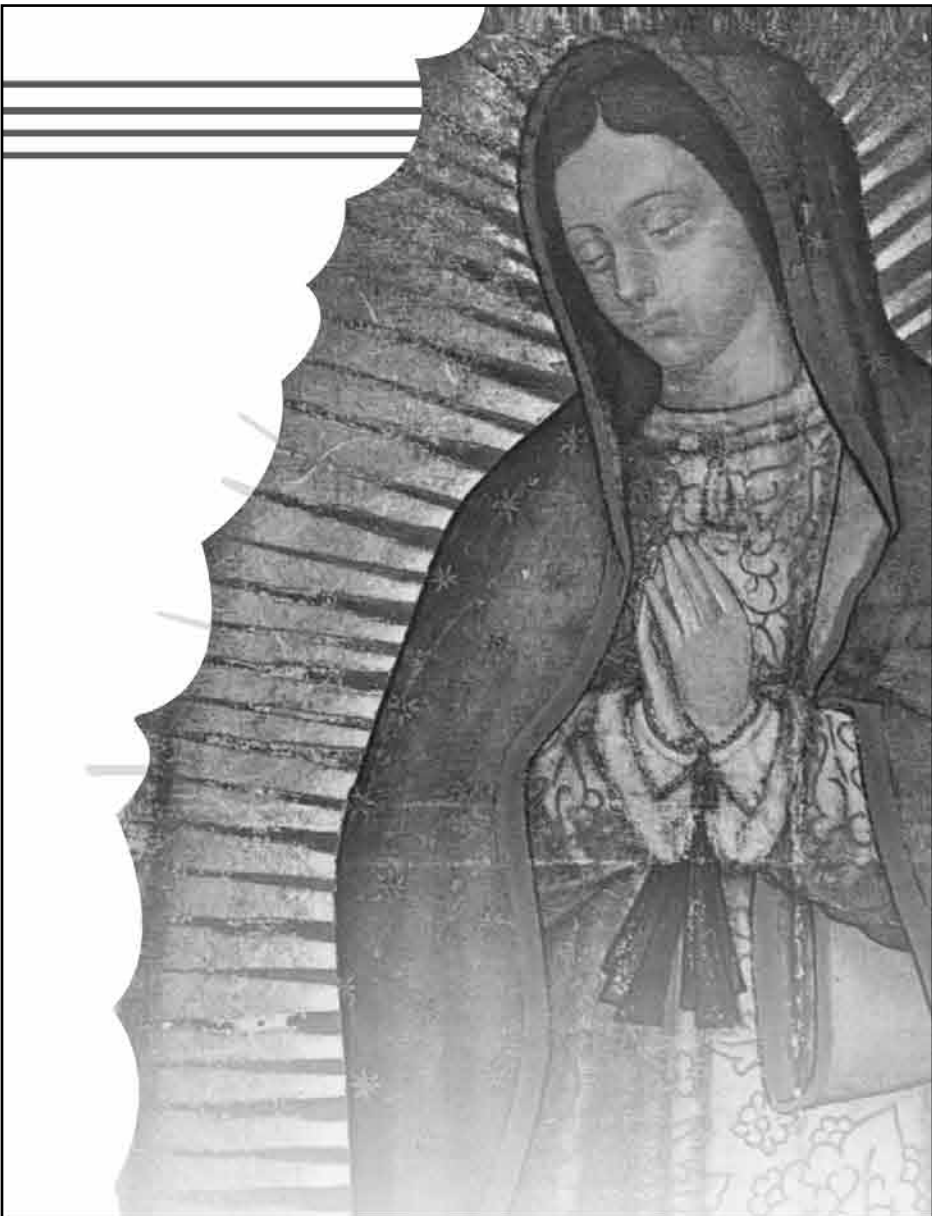
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BISHOP'S MINISTRY APPEAL | 2017

Progress 2017

The Bishop's Annual Appeal

Please join your fellow Catholics and support the 17 ministries supported by the Progress Appeal. When you participate and are 1 of the 12,000 donors you are contributing to the success of our Faith and Catholic Community. Here are some examples of how your generosity helps our community.

A GIFT OF:

- \$25 Supports materials for the Marriage and Family Life Ministry
- \$50 Purchases books for Tepeyac's Certification en Biblia
- \$100 Helps Catholic Campus Ministry purchase winter coats for the needy
- \$200 Purchases fuel for caseworkers at Diocesan Migrant Refugee Services
- \$250 Provides professional training for Counselors at Catholic Counseling Services
- \$500 Supports training and formation for parish marriage preparation teams
- \$1,000 Purchases books and supplies for the Office of Catholic Education
- \$2,000 Sponsors 20 students from the Catholic Campus Ministry to attend an Awakening Retreat
- \$3,000 Funds the Post Confirmation Program, allowing youth and young adults to serve as catechists
- \$5,000 Covers the transportation of all seminarians to and from seminaries for the year
- \$10,000 Funds the Honduras Solidarity Project offering medical services to our sister diocese
- \$15,000 Provides for the education and formation of our future Deacons
- \$30,000 Covers the tuition of a seminarian for one year

Donations can be made by visiting www.progress2017.org or calling the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso at 915.872.8412.



Progreso 2017

Campaña Anual del Obispo

Por favor, únase a sus compañeros católicos y apoye a los 17 ministerios sostenidos por la Campaña de Progreso. Cuando usted participa y es uno de los 12, 000 donantes, usted contribuye al éxito de nuestra fe y de nuestra comunidad católica. A continuación, algunos ejemplos de cómo su generosidad ayuda a nuestra comunidad.

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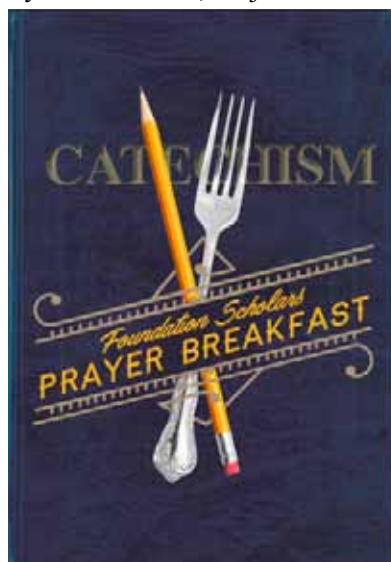
- \$ 25 Apoya para comprar materiales para el Ministerio de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar
- \$ 50 Compra libros para la Certificación en Biblia de Tepeyac
- \$ 100 Ayudan al Ministerio Católico del Campus para comprar abrigos de invierno para los necesitados
- \$ 200 Compra combustible para los trabajadores sociales de los Servicios Diocesanos para Migrantes y Refugiados
- \$ 250 Proporciona capacitación profesional para los consejeros del Ministerio de Servicios de Consejería Católica
- \$ 500 Apoya al entrenamiento y formación para los equipos de preparación de matrimonios parroquiales
- \$ 1,000 Compra libros y suministros para la Oficina de Educación Católica
- \$ 2,000 Apadrina a 20 estudiantes del Ministerio del Campus Católico para asistir al "Retiro Despertar"
- \$ 3,000 Financian el Programa de Confirmación, permitiendo que los jóvenes y los jóvenes adulto sirvan como catequistas
- \$ 5,000 Cubre el transporte de todos los seminaristas, desde y hasta los seminarios durante el año
- \$ 10,000 Contribuyen al Proyecto de Solidaridad en Honduras, ofreciendo servicios médicos a nuestra diócesis hermana
- \$ 15,000 Proporciona la educación y formación de nuestros futuros Diáconos
- \$ 30,000 Cubre la matrícula de un seminarista por año



Las donaciones pueden hacerse visitándonos en www.progress2017.org o llamando a la Fundación para la Diócesis de El Paso al 915.872.8412.

5TH ANNUAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PRAYERS BREAKFAST

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



The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso hosted the 5th Annual Foundation Scholars Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, August 24 at the El Paso Club in downtown El Paso to recognize Foundation scholarship recipients

attending Catholic schools in El Paso and Celebrate Catholic Education.

The Foundation currently manages 83 separate endowment funds for charities, ministries, parishes, and schools. Of these, 25 funds are designated for Catholic schools and have a combined value of nearly \$7 million; each one of El Paso's schools has at least one endowed fund for scholarships. The Catholic Schools' mission is to proclaim the Gospel and teach as Jesus did.

The Foundation is awarding \$187,575 in financial aid to 82 Foundation Scholars attending El Paso's Catholic Schools in 2017-2018. Most of the scholarship aid was distributed from scholarship endowed funds,

with the remainder coming from donations and a generous grant from the Hunt Family Foundation.

Very Reverend Ben Flores, Vicar General for the Diocese of El Paso, Foundation Board Chair Sandra Sanchez Almanzan and Michael Miles, benefactor, Past President and Member of the Foundation Board of Directors, along with parents, students, school administrators and staff, priests, men and women religious, and donors, were in attendance.

Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, D.D., Bishop of El Paso, announced the establishment of the Soñador Scholarship Fund, managed by the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso, at a press conference and unveiling

of his Pastoral Letter on Migration to the People of God in the Diocese of El Paso at Sacred Heart Church on July 18, 2017. The fund was established with a gift of \$20,000.

If you would like to donate to Catholic education visit elpasodiocesefoundation.org or call the Foundation at 915.872.8412.

You can reach Major Gifts Officer, Sofia Larkin, at 915.872.8412 or slarkin@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.



Esteban Estrada III
Hunt Scholar
St. Raphael Catholic School

Get Your Tickets For The 11TH ANNUAL FOUNDATION OF FAITH DINNER Journey to Faith with Tom Leopold

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



This year our guest speaker is Tom Leopold, TV Comedy Writer, Co-host of Sirius XM's "Entertaining Truth", & Unlikely Catholic Convert. He will share his remarkable journey to faith, one laugh at a time. Mr. Leopold told the Catholic Foundation that he is honored to have been selected as the keynote and excited to come to El Paso. The Foundation of Faith Dinner aims to bring the community together to celebrate our Catholic faith, experience the wisdom and grace of renowned national and international speakers, and disseminate the Stewardship message of "Pray. Serve. Give." Get your tickets today for this very special event! The 11th Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner: Journey to Faith is set for Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the El Paso Convention Center from 5-9pm, with cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres beginning at 5pm. The evening includes the cocktail reception with a silent auction for Catholic schools, a seated dinner with wine, Dei Gratia

Award presentation honoring Rudy and Elvia Miles, an exciting live auction, and our keynote speaker, Tom Leopold. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$1,000 for a table of 10.

The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso will also host An Intimate Evening with Tom Leopold on Wednesday, September 20 at 6pm at a private home. Sponsorships of \$2,500 and up provide you with invitations to attend this special event, which includes dinner, wine, and one-on-one time with our keynote speaker.

Tom Leopold, veteran comedy writer of such hit TV shows as Seinfeld, Cheers, and Will and Grace, has been making audiences laugh for over four decades. Now he's keeping audiences entertained as the co-host with Fr. Leo Patalinghug on "Entertaining Truth" on the Catholic Channel of Sirius XM. This former secular Jew and recent Catholic convert is a sought after speaker for his hilariously heartfelt and poignant performance lecture, "A Comedy Writer Finds God: My Journey to Faith, One Laugh at a Time". In 2014 he was honored with the Christopher Spirit Award by the Christophers, a nonprofit organization rooted in the Judeo-Christian

tradition of service to God and humanity.

Leopold's funny and moving Catholic conversion story has been featured in The Catholic Herald, Our Sunday Visitor, Catholic News Service, National Catholic Reporter, American Catholic, The Lay Catholic, CatholicMom.com, and on America: National Catholic Review Podcast, EWTN, Global Catholic Network radio, American Catholic Radio, Relevant Radio, and Hail Satire.

We wish to thank our sponsors in advance: Dr. & Mrs. J. Manuel "Manny" and Maureen de la Rosa (Gold), Baron Chemical and the Bowling Family Charitable Foundation (Silver), Mr. & Mrs. Javier and Linda Caro, The Lemaster Group, Morgan Stanley, Salom Investments, TVO Hospitality, and Travel

with Kerry (Bronze). If you would like the opportunity to participate in this event, please visit fofdinner.org or call the Catholic Foundation at 915.872.8412.

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. The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso makes a measurable impact on the lives of thousands of people in our community but we cannot do it without you!

The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso is a 501(c)(3) organization that was established in 2001 to ensure long-term financial stability for charitable, religious and educational institutions of the Diocese of El Paso. The organization serves 55 parishes, 20

missions, 11 Catholic schools, and 17 diocesan ministries and charities.

Journey To Faith Info:
Date: Thursday, September 21, 2017

Time: Event is from 5-9pm | Cocktails & Silent Auction for Catholic Schools, 5pm, Dinner starts promptly at 6pm
Place: El Paso Convention Center

Price: \$100 per person or \$1,000 per table of 10
Reserve: fofdinner.org

You can reach Major Gifts Officer, Sofia Larkin, at 915.872.8412 or slarkin@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.



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UPCOMING RETREATS

Sep 7 - St. Raphael Church - Men - English
Sep 14 - Saint Mark Catholic Church - Women - Spanish
Sept 21 - Saint Peter & Paul Church - Men
Oct 12 - St. Raphaels Catholic Church - Men - Spanish
Oct 19 - Saint Mark Catholic Church - Youth
Oct 26 - St. Piux X Church - Men - English
Nov 9 - San Antonio Catholic Church - Men - English
Nov 16 - Saint Mark Catholic Church - Men - English
Nov 30 - Cristo Rey Catholic Church - Youth
Dec 7 - Cristo Rey Catholic Church - Youth
Dec 14 - San Martin de Porras Church - Men - Spanish
Jan 4 - Saint Mark Catholic Church - Youth - Spanish