



North Texas Catholic

BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS TO THE DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH



**YOURS
ARE
THE
HANDS**

*with which God
blesses the world*



OUR SHEPHERD SPEAKS

Bishop Michael Olson interjects faith, reason, and dignity into the clamor about immigration.

4

5



AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Patrick Cathedral celebrates 125 years; Father Robert Strittmatter retires and more.



SEEING WITH THE HEART

A walk with eyes of faith through immigration topics, from “sanctuary cities” to the wall.

8

13



ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Catholic Charities receives a larger share, plus how two parishes used funding to expand their outreach.

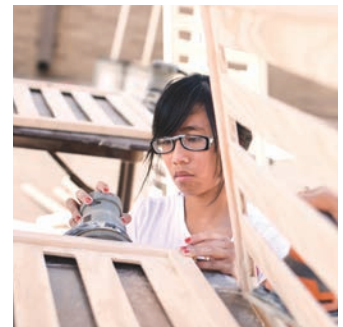


REALLY PRESENT

St. Peter the Apostle Parish launches Perpetual Adoration with providential timing.

20

22



OUT OF THE OFFICE

Restructuring of the Respect Life Office moves ministries closer to the people in the pews.



YOURS ARE THE HANDS

Jesus blesses the world through the hands of thousands of you. Here’s a sample.

24

32



UNITED IN GOD’S GRACE

A couple explains the blessings of having their marriage convalidated by the Church.



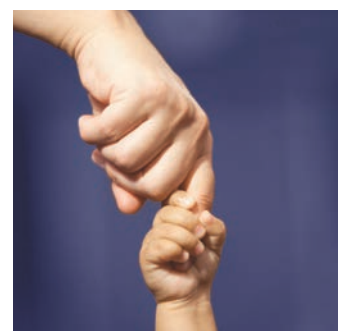
TAKE FIVE WITH FATHER

Father Bartomiej Jasilek, SVD, on why he loves the confessional and serving Mass with St. John Paul II.

39

ON THE COVER

“Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.” — St. Teresa of Avila
(NTC photo/Jayme Shedenhelm)





PUBLISHER BISHOP MICHAEL OLSON

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR PAT SVACINA

EDITOR JUAN GUAJARDO

ASSOCIATE EDITOR SUSAN MOSES

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS ROSA ROSALES

WEB DESIGNER CHRIS KASTNER

CIRCULATION CAROL SMITH

CONTRIBUTORS MICHELE BAKER | JENARA KOCKS BURGESS
JACQUELINE BURKEPILE | CRYSTAL BROWN
JERRY CIRCELLI | JOAN GILLEN
ADREAN INDOLOS | LANCE MURRAY
MICHELLE MCDANIEL | CHASE MARTINEZ
VIOLETA ROCHA | MARY LOU SEEWESTER
DONNA RYCKAERT | MATTHEW SMITH
JAYME SHEDENHELM | BEN TORRES

TRANSLATORS REYNA CASTELAN | YOLANDA NEWCOMB

REGULAR COLUMNISTS KATHY HAMER BECK | JEFF HEDGLEN
MARLON DE LA TORRE | ALI HOFFMAN
DAVID MILLS | MARY MORRELL
CALLIE NOWLIN | JOEL RODRIGUEZ
FR. RON ROLHEISER | FR. JAMES WILCOX

Editorial Office: 800 West Loop 820 S., Fort Worth, Texas 76108, 817-945-9424.

NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC Magazine (USPS 751-370) (ISSN 0899-7020) is published bi-monthly by the Most Rev. Michael F. Olson, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth. For those who are not registered parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Worth, subscription rates are \$18 for one year, \$35 for two years, \$50 for three years. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Worth, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to North Texas Catholic, 800 W. Loop 820 S., Fort Worth, Texas 76108.

The appearance of advertising in these pages does not imply endorsement of businesses, services, or products. Readers must exercise prudence in responding to advertising in all media.

For address changes, please contact Carol Smith, 817-945-9465.

Know only humans

We've seen some ugly things happen in our nation this summer. It's as if a spirit of divisiveness has descended amongst us with a vengeance.

It's nearly impossible to scroll down one's Facebook feed without seeing a rash of uncharitable words or comments poisoned with a hateful tone. The lack of respect and compassion doesn't stop there.

Cases in point: the shouting-match politics we were subjected to last fall; the Charlottesville violence; and such a vast anti-immigrant rhetoric that *The Atlantic's* Peter Beinart is calling it an echo of Nixon's "southern strategy," which fueled a backlash of racial tensions. Even driving is getting more hazardous. There's been such a marked increase in road rage shootings that the Arlington Police Department created a task force to cool those tempers.

What can we do in such a time like this, where it gives one pause to speak up for fear of sparking outrage rather than healthy discussion? Remember who we are and *Whose* we are.

Every person — regardless of race, age, gender, political alignment, faith, legal status, or economic class — is made by God, for God, in the likeness of God (*Genesis 1:27*). That means they hold an astronomical worth and dignity, and deserve to be treated as such — with love. That's not a platitude my friends, that's truth, and we know it. For a refresher on the importance of that, just read *1 John 4:20-21*.

Andre Trocme (subject of the book *Love in a Time of Hate; see Page 38*) sets an excellent example for these times. For him, to put love into practice meant "to regard another person as you regard yourself; to actually put yourself into their situation instead of just dreaming that you love them."

With that truth in his heart, at the height of WWII, the French Christian and his wife and town helped save numerous Jews from sure death. He lived the Gospel call to love in a time of radical hate.

Acting with love doesn't mean you have to respect someone's opinion because honestly you don't. But if we dare call ourselves Catholic Christians, we do have to respect the person, and go beyond that and see Jesus in them. We need to see as Trocme saw: "We don't know what a Jew is. We only know human beings." So let's not confuse our true identity — child of God — with rhetoric and labels that only describe a *part* of us.

If Trocme saw with love in such a hateful time, surely we can do the same in these less difficult ones.

Juan Guajardo
Editor



Interjecting faith, reason, and human dignity into the immigration landscape

Immigration has become a divisive issue in Texas. But that should not be.

As the second largest state with more than 26 million residents, we are a land of immigrants, whether our family immigrated to Texas in 1836 or in 2017.

In no small part, the Catholic Church of Texas and the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth in North Texas have lived out the faith given to us by Jesus Christ by welcoming the stranger and the needy into our midst. In fact, since 1528 the Catholic Church has been a part of Texas history, providing pastoral care to the communities who settled here over the centuries.

As the pastor of more than 900,000 Catholics in North Texas, I am compelled to oppose the strong anti-immigrant mood that prevails among many today. Furthermore, I exhort the people of our diocese to balance the need for a secure nation with the Gospel call to welcome and integrate the needy and the oppressed. For by serving these “least of us” — the immigrant, the migrant, the refugee — we serve and encounter our Lord (*Matthew 25:34-46*). Catholics should consider how their rhetoric manifests the disposition of their souls — angry, afraid, selfish, prejudiced?

When I speak on immigration, some respond that I “should stay out of politics and stick to spiritual matters.” However, the Bible tells us clearly, “You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt” (*Leviticus 19:34*).

Our long history of Church teaching, papal encyclicals, bishops’ pastoral

letters and statements, and New and Old Testament Scripture have consistently reinforced our obligation to treat the stranger as we would treat Our Lord Himself. The Bishops of the United States and the Bishops of Mexico acknowledged the rights of nations and immigrants in the pastoral statement, “Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope.”

- People have the right to find opportunities in their homeland
- People have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families
- Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders
- Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection
- The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected

The bottom line is this: While the Church recognizes the need of a nation to impose reasonable limits on immigration, it also advocates that nations must never violate the human dignity of undocumented migrants, or trample on their basic human rights. We must therefore use this lens of faith to assess the current migration issues at hand today.

SB 4, BORDER WALLS, AND THE NEGLECT OF HUMAN DIGNITY

Over the past several months, my

brother bishops and I have expressed our disapproval of Senate Bill 4 due to its failure to meet three important principles that go hand-in-hand with the social teaching of the Church.

Targeted: Laws regarding incarceration and deportation should target those who present a danger to society. Enforcement should make sure the basic rights of large groups of innocent people are not curtailed.

Yes, everyone must follow the laws of our country and state. But not all undocumented immigrants are criminals, as is implied by the current anti-immigration attitude. Most made the dangerous trek here to escape poverty, violence, persecution, or government corruption. Many are honorable and good members of our community, volunteering, giving back, excelling in our schools, and ministering in our churches.

The anti-sanctuary cities bill, in particular, harms the common good because it fosters an attitude of suspicion of the legal status of all immigrants.

Proportional: Enforcement of immigration laws should not feature excessive penalties or force. Immigration officers and border patrol agents should receive intensive training on appropriate use of force and enforcement tactics.

Enforcement should not force migrants to risk their lives, as we tragically witnessed in San Antonio a few weeks ago — when 10 people died from extreme dehydration

Continued on Page 11

NTC photo/Juan Guajardo

St. Patrick Cathedral celebrates 125 years

FORT WORTH — On July 10, Catholics at St. Patrick Cathedral joined in prayer and thanksgiving for the blessings bestowed upon the Catholic community of Fort Worth and beyond.

The cathedral commemorated a milestone: the 125th anniversary of its dedication. The event began with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Father Sojan George, rector, with Father John Robert Skeldon, parochial vicar, as the concelebrant and homilist.

The Catholic community in Fort Worth dates back to 1876, when Father Thomas Loughrey led the building of a modest church named after St. Stanislaus Kostka. In 1884, French native Father Jean Marie Guyot took over the parish and headed construction of a new, Gothic Revival-style church. Many of the parish's Catholics were of Irish descent and voted to name the new church after

their patron, St. Patrick. The new church was dedicated July 10, 1892.

Fr. Skeldon mentioned the cathedral was built within “Hell’s Half-Acre,” an area of Fort Worth where sin, debauchery, prostitution, and poverty were common in the 1800s. “That was precisely where the . . . gate of heaven needed to be opened,” he said.

After Mass, parishioners and visitors packed the parish hall for food, fellowship, and displays of several items significant to the cathedral’s history, including monstrances, saints’ relics, and photos.

“I thought it was important for us to come together as a parish family to thank God for this wonderful place of worship,” Fr. George said. “The community here at St. Patrick is so grateful for our beloved cathedral.”

— Jacqueline Burkepile



National Cristo Rey Network approves Fort Worth campus

FORT WORTH — The hope of providing a quality, college preparatory education to disadvantaged youth moved one step closer to becoming reality when organizers of Cristo Rey Fort Worth High School at Our Mother of Mercy received approval to develop a local campus.

Consent came from the national Cristo Rey Network which standardizes practices and accountability for the 32 schools in its system.

When the doors open in August 2018, 125 students are expected to become the first freshman class at

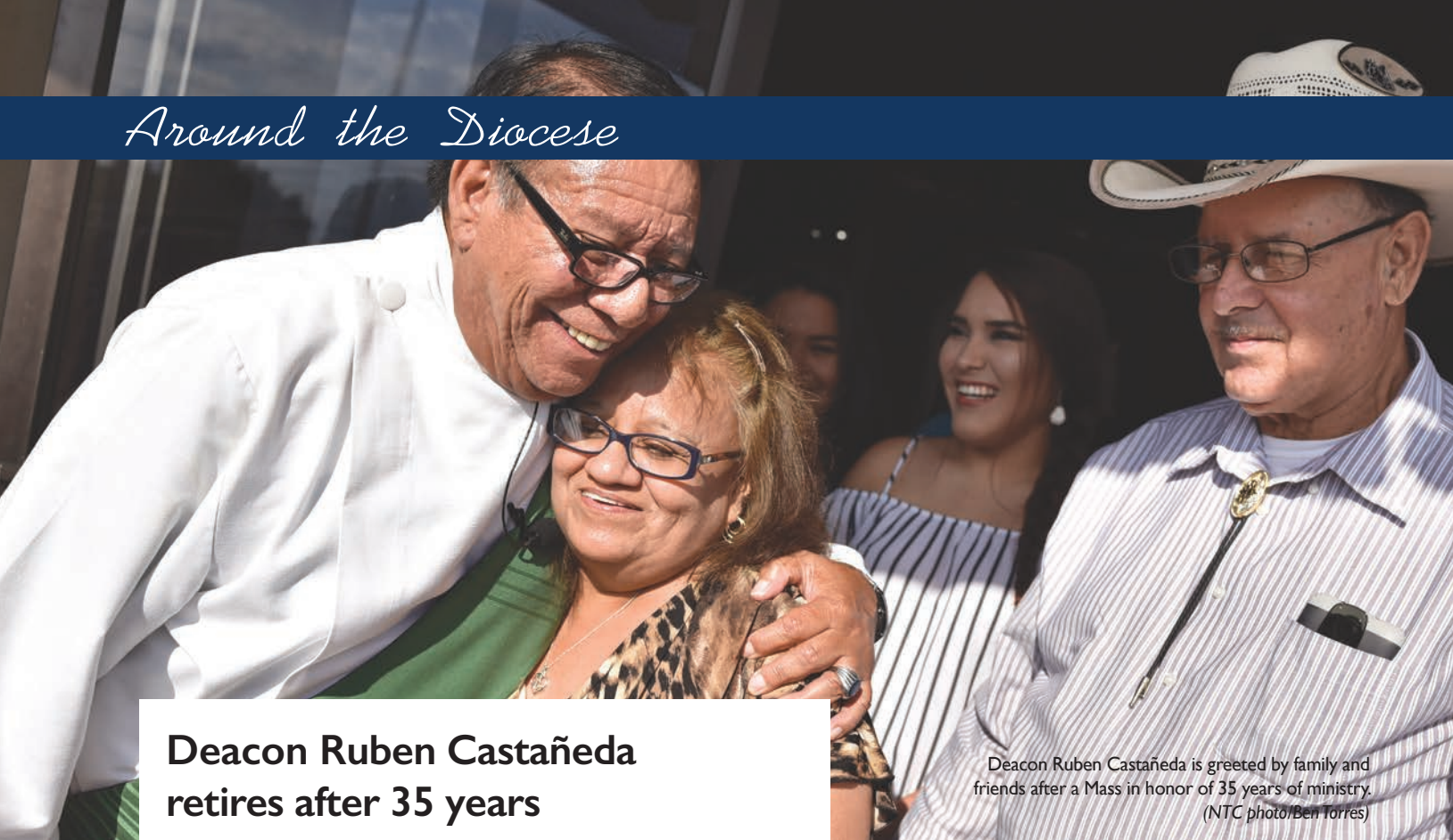
the privately-operated school in southeast Fort Worth. The school will add an additional grade with an equal number of admissions each year until it serves grades nine through twelve.

Cristo Rey is a revolutionary program in Catholic education that couples rigorous academics with real life experience in the corporate world. The work/study concept provides young people from low-income families with a multi-faceted education that prepares them for success in college and life.

— Joan Kurkowski-Gillen



For full versions of these stories plus more photos, visit NorthTexasCatholic.org/local-news



Deacon Ruben Castañeda retires after 35 years

BRECKENRIDGE — After 35 years as a pastoral administrator and deacon, Deacon Ruben Castañeda celebrated his retirement at a reception and Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Breckenridge.

Over the years, he served at eight rural parishes in the southwest deanery.

Bishop Michael Olson celebrated the Mass and explained he first met the deacon in the summer of 1989 when he was a seminarian and accompanied Dcn. Castañeda on pastoral visits.

“Part of what helped me discern the will of the Lord and

become a priest in this diocese was Dcn. Ruben’s hospitality, friendship, and selfless example of ministry,” said Bishop Olson.

Dcn. Castañeda emphasized he tried to put God first in his ministry.

“That has always helped me with wisdom and knowledge. That’s what I must do to help parishes and to help people in need who need to come closer to God. That’s what my ministry is. Even if it’s just one person who comes closer to Christ, I’m happy because that’s what my work is for,” he said.

— *Jenara Kocks Burgess*

Deacon Ruben Castañeda is greeted by family and friends after a Mass in honor of 35 years of ministry. (NTC photo/Ben Torres)

Knights donate \$200,000 to seminarians, deaf ministry

KELLER — Prayer and thanksgiving were in the air as the Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Fort Worth held their 22nd annual Priest and Religious Appreciation Dinner Aug. 7 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller.

About 400 priests, religious, deacons, seminarians, Knights, and their families gathered in appreciation of the clergy and religious in the diocese. The Knights presented a check for \$204,169 to Bishop Michael Olson earmarked for vocations and deaf ministry.

“Our goal is to make this a fun, relaxing

evening for all the priests and religious,” said Pat Henz, chairman of the Western Metroplex Chapter. “Seeing the seminarians together, along with so many sisters, deacons, and priests, really makes it special for us.”

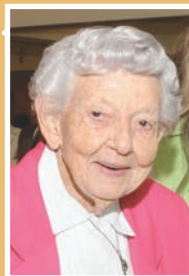
Father Raymond McDaniel, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Lewisville, said he enjoys the opportunity “to see other clergy from the parishes, to interact with the Knights of Columbus, to enjoy some fellowship, and to continue to pray for our Church and for vocations.”

— *Jacqueline Burkepile*

IN MEMORY

SISTER FRANCES EVANS, CCVI.....July 22, 2017

Please keep our recently deceased priests, deacons, and religious in your prayers. Full obituaries are available at NorthTexasCatholic.org.



FR. STRITTMATTER RETIRES

What has he most enjoyed in 51 years of priesthood? “All of it”

By Matthew Smith

The line queued dozens deep June 25 in the parish hall of St. Patrick Cathedral and continued steady for nearly two hours. Through it all Father Robert Strittmatter remained upbeat, sharing hugs, posing for selfies, and in no apparent hurry to rush anyone through.

Fr. Strittmatter celebrated his retirement Mass that day followed by a reception celebrating his 51 years of priesthood.

The 76-year-old Fort Worth native was ordained in 1966 at All Saints Parish and went on to serve at numerous parishes throughout his career, most recently as parochial vicar at St. Patrick.

“I guess the first assignment is the one that always sticks in your mind,” Fr. Strittmatter said. “That was [Holy Family of Nazareth] in Irving. We were still the Dallas/Fort Worth Diocese in 1966.”

All the duties of priesthood, Fr. Strittmatter replied, when asked what he’s most enjoyed.

“Serving God and celebrating Mass,” Fr. Strittmatter said. “Hearing confessions and all the sacraments, getting people ready for marriage, visiting jails, and hospitals. I’ve enjoyed all of it.”

On a personal level, Fr. Strittmatter said he’s come to know, love, and more deeply and faithfully serve God over time, something that can be a challenge at times even for a priest.

“Oh sure, we’re still very human,” Fr. Strittmatter said.

Fr. Strittmatter comes across direct if soft spoken, more interested in asking questions than discussing himself.

Others, however, have no problem singing his praises.

“He’s a great priest, a saintly priest, and you see how people love him,” Father Sojan George, rector of St. Patrick, said.

St. Patrick parishioner Brenda Clement agreed.

“He’s a wonderful man full of kindness, wisdom, and love,” Clement said.

St. Patrick parishioner Lori Haley called Fr. Strittmatter one of the most spiritually-gifted men she’s met and said she’s gone to confession with him both at St. Patrick and at San Mateo Mission, which closed last year.

“He listens,” Haley said. “He prays with you, reads the Bible with you. He’s not just going by the numbers. He tries to get to the root of the problem



Fr. Robert Strittmatter takes a selfie with parishioner Sophie Lopez during a reception celebrating his retirement. (NTC photo/Ben Torres)

to help you understand why you do what you do.”

Siblings Jane and Susan Daley of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Fort Worth said they’ve known Fr. Strittmatter their entire lives.

“He went to school with our mother,” Jane Daley said. “You’re looking at someone who’s going to go down in history.”

Susan Daley described Fr. Strittmatter as “extremely old school” yet very wonderful and comforting.

“He really and truly was our go-to guy when we needed a priest because it’s always been extremely personal for him,” Daley said. “He’s not going through the motions or having to read someone’s name off a card when he’s doing a funeral. He’s invested.”

Fr. Strittmatter’s brother, Buddy Strittmatter, beamed pride over his younger brother in the way brothers tend to do.

“He does one of the most important things,” Buddy Strittmatter jested. “When I tell a joke, he laughs.”

Fr. Strittmatter said he plans to assist the diocese as needed but will dedicate most of his retirement to prayer, reflection, and growing in faith.

He urged all to pray for vocations.

“We have something like 800,000 Catholics and only about 150 priests in our diocese,” Fr. Strittmatter said. “So we could use some more praying for vocations.” 🇺🇸



For more photos,
visit the gallery at
North
TexasCatholic.org

SEEING WITH THE

HEART of JESUS

By Susan Moses
and Juan Guajardo

SISTER LETICIA BENAVIDES, a counselor at Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, greets a happy immigrant girl in 2015 at a respite center at Sacred Heart Parish in McAllen, Texas. The girl had just arrived after a weeks-long journey from Central America. ▶

CNS photo/Cesar Rijoias, The Valley Catholic



It's no secret we're living in unsettled times.

From refugee resettlement and travel bans to border walls, Dreamers, and immigration laws, for every compassionate response, there seems to be an equal backlash of division, fear, misunderstanding, and anger — even among Catholics.

The *NTC* is offering a big-picture view through the lens of our Church, Pope Francis, and our bishops, who are united in calling for a kind and just response to these “least of us.”

UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO SB 4

One of the laws that most stands to affect immigrants in the diocese goes by a simple but misleading name: the anti-sanctuary cities bill.

SB 4, which was signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott on May 7, changes the landscape of immigration law in Texas by punishing local law enforcement or city officials who don't honor federal immigration requests (detainers) to hold noncitizen inmates for deportation.

Punishment for not honoring a detainer ranges from denial of state funding to civil and criminal penalties, fines up to \$25,000 per violation, removal from public office, and jail time.

Moreover, the bill allows officers to inquire about someone's immigration status at any point — traffic stops and house calls — not just when a person is under arrest.

Currently, the bill is part of a lawsuit filed by a number of Texas cities and counties, stating that it violates the 5th, 10th, and 14th amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

Meanwhile, the Texas bishops have opposed SB 4 at every turn because the bill neglects Christ's call to welcome the stranger and offer help and hope to the oppressed and needy.

Bishop Olson expressed concern and disappointment over the bill, saying the legislation could “harm the common good because it fosters an attitude of suspicion of the legal status of all immigrants.”

Rather, he said, “enforcement measures

should have the goal of targeting dangerous criminals for incarceration and deportation.”

He added that the bill doesn't solve the “complicated problems of our immigration system.” The Texas Bishops say to do that, policies must first address the root causes of flight from a home country, and fix the overly-taxed immigrant admittance process.

Speaking for all the bishops of Texas, Austin Bishop Joe Vásquez told the Texas Senate Feb. 2 that the Church “does not condone or encourage illegal immigration because it is not good for society or for the migrant, who lives in fear and in the shadows.”

But, he stated, laws must “respect the rights and dignity given by our Creator to each person.”

Margarita Morton, a St. Patrick Cathedral parishioner and immigration lawyer in Fort Worth, said although the bill goes into effect Sept. 4, it has already led to much uncertainty and fear in the immigrant community. “I have heard from clients that their neighbors are considering moving due to fear and uncertainty of what will happen to their loved ones should they remain.”

Even though the bill prohibits racial profiling and discrimination, Morton and other experts — including police — have said immigrants will feel distrustful of law enforcement and “more reluctant to come forward to report a crime.”

In a recent column, San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller and Brownsville Bishop Daniel Flores said that stipulation would cause people to be “desperately afraid,” and to “immediately wonder about their children, and about their own safety if deported.”

“It is this uncertainty and potential panic at the moment of questioning that breeds fear and hurts the community fabric,” they said.

Continued on Page 10



POPE FRANCIS ON THE REALITIES OF MIGRATION

Last October, Pope Francis talked about the attitude shown toward immigrants and refugees, noting that Christians play a large role in helping integrate the newcomer into society. “You cannot be a Christian without practicing the beatitudes,” he said. “You cannot be a Christian without doing what Jesus teaches us in Matthew 25... It’s hypocrisy to call yourself a Christian and chase away a refugee or someone seeking help.”

But a simple welcome is not enough, Francis clarified a month later.

The pontiff made a distinction between a nation’s receiving an immigrant or refugee and its ability to integrate newcomers into society. A simple welcome without integration (without relationship or hospitable response) means migrants and refugees could face significant obstacles in gaining jobs, education, and could be “ghettoed, that is, [the migrant] enters a ghetto...” and fails to develop in relationship with others, he warned.

As such, the pope, Caritas Internationalis, and Catholic charities across the world (and the U.S.) are making sure that migrants and refugees are not shunned due to fear or misconceptions. In September, the pope will launch the “Share the Journey” campaign, a two-year initiative to promote encounter between people on the move and people living in the countries they are arriving in.

“You may be afraid of migrants as a large group of people coming in, but when you meet a migrant, then you have a different vision,” Michel Roy, Caritas’ secretary general told CNS.

WILL A BORDER WALL SOLVE PROBLEMS?

President Trump campaigned on the promise to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, and his proposed budget for fiscal year 2018 includes \$1.6 billion for 74 miles of construction. An estimated 650 miles of the approximate 1,900-mile U.S.-Mexico border already have a wall.

“Construction of such a wall will only make migrants, especially vulnerable women and children, more susceptible to traffickers and smugglers. Additionally, the construction of such a wall destabilizes the many vibrant and beautifully interconnected communities that live peacefully along the border,” said the chair of the U.S. bishops’ migration committee, Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin.

Other bishops along the border agreed. “While countries have a duty to ensure that immigration is orderly and safe, this responsibility can never serve as a pretext to build walls and shut the door to migrants and refugees,” said El Paso Bishop Mark Seitz.

◀ FEAR OF DEPORTATION.

A Honduran immigrant plays with his daughter during a 2017 Dallas immigration workshop to determine legal guardians in case of deportation.



NTC/Ben Torres

“DREAMERS” FACE UNCERTAINTY

Undocumented young people brought to the U.S. by their parents contribute to American society and deserve continued protections, said the U.S. Catholic bishops this summer. “These young people entered the U.S. as

Continued on Page 12

WHY DON'T THEY JUST 'GET IN LINE'?



The reality is while 98 percent of unauthorized migrants want to reside and work in the U.S. lawfully, no “line” is readily available in most cases.

- The nation’s three routes to temporary or permanent status (employment, family reunification, and humanitarian protection) are highly regulated and subject to strict numbers limitations.
- According to the American Immigration Council, even those who can “get in line” are subject to long backlogs and enormous waiting periods — from 5 to 20 years!

ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION



A root cause is a foundational reason for the occurrence of migration. Root causes have push and pull factors, with pushes being reasons why people want to leave their home country. The most common push factors are:

- Persecution, violence, war
- Poor wages, lack of jobs
- Famine, pollution, natural disasters
- Limited opportunities, lack of medical services, family separation

* From the USCIB, ImmigrationForum.org, and JusticeForImmigrants.org

BISHOP OLSON

From Page 4

BISHOP OLSON ON BEING A WELCOMING COMMUNITY

- Invite the immigrant, refugee, or migrant among us to become closer to your parish community; give them opportunities for service and leadership. Actively welcome newcomers.
- Help point immigrants and migrants to pertinent social services. Encourage any migrant friends or family you know to apply for citizenship or legal status.
- Hear their stories and share yours with them, for we break down walls between cultures through encounter and relationship.
- Protect their rights and human dignity in the political and public sphere by speaking in support of comprehensive and humane immigration reform.
- Pray. Pray for an end to the root causes of migration: poverty, persecution, corruption. Pray for a welcoming and understanding spirit.
- Study the facts about immigration and refugees. Read up on Catholic Social Justice teaching.

and heat while locked in a tractor-trailer that was part of a smuggling operation. Many of the migrants were from Mexico and Guatemala. These men, women, and children, desperate to reach a better life, ran the profound risk of traveling at least 150 miles in the back of a sweltering trailer.

Moreover, laws like SB 4 place the burden of verification of legal status of everyone upon local law enforcement officials. This burden complicates the already stressful responsibilities of officers who serve and protect our communities. This part of the bill is also leading to widespread fear and distrust among members of our local immigrant communities.

Humane: In the enforcement of any law, the dignity and rights of a person should be protected and respected.

As my brother Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin put it, “Families should not be divided and should receive special consideration. Undocumented immigrants should not be detained for lengthy periods or intermingled with violent offenders. Asylum seekers should receive appropriate screening by qualified adjudicators. Children should be accommodated within a child welfare context.”

We should not be fooled into thinking that SB 4, a border wall, or other anti-immigrant measures in any way resolve the complicated problems of our immigration system — problems that harm families, children, and impoverish our community in general. We must continue to advocate for more just and comprehensive immigration laws, which include reunification of families and creating

more just pathways to citizenship.

BEING A HOSPITABLE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

The Catholic Church of Texas and of North Texas, in particular, must continue our faith-based tradition of welcoming immigrants and refugees. Just as the Church welcomed Europeans in the

1800s, we continue welcoming unaccompanied children and families from Central America seeking asylum; Cubans fleeing to Texas seeking freedom from communism; and special immigrants — including Christians from Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan — who are fleeing terrorism, as well as victims of human trafficking and survivors of torture.

We are called more than ever to avoid the division and fear and instead respond with the compassion Christ extends to us.

I call on each of us to seek the graces of the Holy Spirit and help the immigrant and refugee. And I call on us to support meaningful immigration reform.

God Bless. 🇺🇸

DID YOU KNOW?

“It is a part of the Church’s mission ‘to pass moral judgments even in matters related to politics, whenever the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls requires it.’”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2241



+ Michael F. Olson



AP Photo/Gregory Bull

DID YOU KNOW?

In Texas, 13.4 percent of students in grades K-12 have at least one parent who is an unauthorized immigrant.

— Pew Research Center
2014

PAINFUL SEPARATION. In this 2016 picture, Eva Lara reacts as she reaches for her grandmother through the border wall during a brief visitation in San Diego. Eva, who lives in the United States legally through legislation that temporarily prevents young immigrants from being deported, has not seen her grandmother since the family left Mexico.

From Page 10

children and know America as their only home.”

Young people who qualify under the program are “contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes,” said Bishop Joe Vásquez.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy was implemented in 2012 by a controversial executive order. More than 750,000 youth (“Dreamers”) won a temporary reprieve from deportation and the opportunity for two-year work permits.

In June, President Trump terminated a similar program allowing qualified undocumented parents of Americans to apply for three-year work and residency permits, and he has sent mixed messages about DACA’s future. Ten state governments, including Texas, threaten a lawsuit unless DACA is rescinded by Sept. 5.

Bishop Vásquez said the DACA

program is not a permanent solution and called on Congress to find a legislative solution for these youth “as soon as possible.” Despite their unsettled future, Bishop Vásquez told the “Dreamers” and their families: “the Catholic Church stands in solidarity with you.”

WHO IS WELCOME?

Current immigration policy favors those with family ties, but the Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy Act, or RAISE Act, would create a system of legal immigration that awards points based on ability to speak English, age, level of education, investments, and job offer salary.

The bill, backed by President Trump, would cut legal immigration in half within a decade and permanently cap the number of refugees admitted.

Bishop Vásquez and other Catholic leaders said the bill would weaken families, discriminate against the poor, reduce ethnic diversity, and deny the contributions of past

immigrants. Also, a permanent limit on refugee resettlement would limit national response to an international future humanitarian crisis.

DON'T LOSE YOUR HUMANITY

In March — at a peak of the immigration and refugee debate — the U.S. bishops encouraged American Catholics to accompany migrants and refugees seeking a better life in the U.S.

In their pastoral reflection, they called on Catholics to look past the politics and “not lose sight of the fact that behind every policy is the story of a person in search of a better life. They may be an immigrant or refugee family sacrificing so that their children might have a brighter future.”

They made clear that it is necessary to safeguard the nation through immigration laws, but this must be done in a manner that does “not cause us to lose our humanity” while allowing for a generous opportunity for legal migration. 🇺🇸

PLAYING OUR PART

Annual Diocesan Appeal assists ministries, impacts parishes

By Matthew Smith

The theme for this year's Annual Diocesan Appeal revolves around parishioner's responsibility to the common good, said Renée Underwood, associate director of the Advancement Foundation.

"Parish, diocese, universal," Underwood said. "Playing our part in the Church and the world."

Underwood, who is helping coordinate this year's appeal, said most Catholics understand the need to support their parish but not always the need for supporting their diocese.

"Many of the ministries benefitting from the appeal directly affect the parishes," Underwood said. "From deacon formation to seminarians becoming priests to covering priests' medical costs. That's especially important in a diocese spread out as far and wide as ours where some parishes otherwise lack the resources to carry out the Church's missions.

"People carry those ministries out, but they involve dollar costs," she added.

Announcements for this year's appeal begin Sept. 9 with commitment weekend in parishes scheduled Sept. 16-17. The goal is \$3.3 million.

Last year, 11,053 parishioners from 91



(NTC photo/Ben Torres)

Father Joy Joseph, TOR, of Holy Cross Parish with Director of Youth Ministries Marie Benavides.

parishes and missions contributed just over \$3 million, attaining 95.88 percent of the diocese's goal.

Catholic schools, rural parishes, and seminarians will receive support from this year's donations, as will others.

The focus, however, is on Catholic Charities and Marriage and Family Life. Catholic Charities will receive a 150 percent increase because their need grew when two Respect Life Ministries, Project Gabriel and Rachel Ministries, moved under their umbrella this year.

Appeal donations alleviate great

Your Gift at Work

"This widens our youth ministry overall to further awaken the spiritual needs of the parish."

— Father Joy Joseph, TOR, Pastor
Holy Cross Church, The Colony

needs but also garner profound impacts, Catholic Charities Fort Worth Executive Director Heather Reynolds said.

"Support received from the annual appeal is ending poverty," Reynolds

Continued on Page 14

PLAYING OUR PART

Annual Diocesan Appeal assists ministries, impacts parishes

By Matthew Smith

The theme for this year's Annual Diocesan Appeal revolves around parishioner's responsibility to the common good, said Renée Underwood, associate director of the Advancement Foundation.

"Parish, diocese, universal," Underwood said. "Playing our part in the Church and the world."

Underwood, who is helping coordinate this year's appeal, said most Catholics understand the need to support their parish but not always the need for supporting their diocese.

"Many of the ministries benefitting from the appeal directly affect the parishes," Underwood said. "From deacon formation to seminarians becoming priests to covering priests' medical costs. That's especially important in a diocese spread out as far and wide as ours where some parishes otherwise lack the resources to carry out the Church's missions.

"People carry those ministries out, but they involve dollar costs," she added.

Announcements for this year's appeal begin Sept. 9 with commitment weekend in parishes scheduled Sept. 16-17. The goal is \$3.3 million.

Last year, 11,053 parishioners from 91



(NTC photo/Ben Torres)

Father Joy Joseph, TOR, of Holy Cross Parish with Director of Youth Ministries Marie Benavides.

parishes and missions contributed just over \$3 million, attaining 95.88 percent of the diocese's goal.

Catholic schools, rural parishes, deaf ministries, and seminarians will receive support from this year's donations, as will others.

The focus, however, is on Catholic Charities and Marriage and Family Life. Catholic Charities will receive a 150 percent increase because their need grew when two Respect Life Ministries, Project Gabriel and Rachel Ministries, moved under their umbrella this year.

Your Gift at Work

"This widens our youth ministry overall to further awaken the spiritual needs of the parish."

— Father Joy Joseph, TOR, Pastor
Holy Cross Church, The Colony

Appeal donations alleviate great needs but also garner profound impacts, Catholic Charities Fort Worth Executive Director Heather Reynolds said.

"Support received from the annual

Continued on Page 14

said. “That’s a huge deal to all of us. Additionally, it is a tangible way to stand in solidarity with our collective mission and call to help the most vulnerable among us.”

More than 90 cents of every dollar donated goes toward services for families in need, Reynolds said, from housing to job skills to English lessons and more. As for Rachel Ministries and Project Gabriel, both provide critical services core to Catholic teaching and faith.

“We want to ensure that expectant mothers and women recovering from abortion are supported and faithfully walked alongside through their difficult journeys,” Reynolds said.

Chris Vaughan, director of Marriage and Family Life, said demand for marriage preparation has increased.

“Funding received from the appeal allows us to give couples preparing for marriage really comprehensive formation,” Vaughan

said. “All recent popes from John Paul II to Francis have talked of the importance of family in preaching the Gospel. The more we can do to strengthen families the less chance there is for abortion, divorce, teen pregnancy, and pornography, and the more that message spreads through the diocese.”

Concrete examples of the impact of appeal donations can be seen throughout the diocese.

Father Joy Joseph of Holy Cross

“This widens our youth ministry overall to further awaken the spiritual needs of our parish.”

Father Joseph Keating of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Penelope and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Abbott received \$45,000 for a full-time director of religious education for both parishes.

“We rely on volunteers for just about all parish activities as both are small

parishes,” Fr. Keating said. “The challenge is we don’t have a lot of folks deep in theology, but the adults and kids are hungry for it. This [donation] helps us provide better opportunities for that.

“The addition of a full-time DRE frees me to do more adult education, more catechist training, and allows our youth more opportunities to participate,” he continued.

In talking about the need to support the upcoming appeal, Underwood circled back to this year’s theme of the common good, and a focus on the bigger picture.

“It is important for parishioners to donate and help where they can,” Underwood said. “The many ministries of the diocese have growing needs — needs that come with dollar

costs. But it’s also important for us to focus on the ministries and their missions more than the dollars and cents aspect and to remain grateful to God for all He gives that we can never repay.”



NTC photo/James Bezdek

Father Joseph Keating of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church received funds for a full-time director of religious education for both parishes.

Church in The Colony received \$35,000 last year and \$25,000 each of the next two years to fund a full-time youth minister.

“We didn’t have a full-time director and felt we were not meeting the spiritual needs of our youth,” the pastor said.

Your Gift at Work

“The addition of a full-time DRE frees me to do more adult education, more catechist training, and allows our youth more opportunities to participate.”

— Father Joseph Keating, Pastor
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbott
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Penelope

From Page 13

appeal is ending poverty,” Reynolds said. “That’s a huge deal to all of us. Additionally, it is a tangible way to stand in solidarity with our collective mission and call to help the most vulnerable among us.”

More than 90 cents of every dollar donated goes toward services for families in need, Reynolds said, from housing to job skills to English lessons and more. As for Rachel Ministries and Project Gabriel, both provide critical services core to Catholic teaching and faith.

“We want to ensure that expectant mothers and women recovering from abortion are supported and faithfully walked alongside through their difficult journeys,” Reynolds said.

Chris Vaughan, director of Marriage and Family Life, said demand for marriage preparation has increased.

“Funding received from the appeal allows us to give couples preparing for marriage really comprehensive

formation,” Vaughan said. “All recent popes from John Paul II to Francis have talked of the importance of family in preaching the Gospel. The more we can do to strengthen families the less chance there is for abortion, divorce, teen pregnancy, and pornography, and the more that message spreads through the diocese.”

Concrete examples of the impact of appeal donations can be seen throughout the diocese.

needs of our youth,” the pastor said. “This widens our youth ministry overall to further awaken the spiritual needs of our parish.”

Father Joseph Keating of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Penelope and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Abbott received \$45,000 for a full-time director of religious education for both parishes.

“We rely on volunteers for just about all parish activities as both are small parishes,” Fr. Keating said. “The challenge is we don’t have a lot of folks deep in theology, but the adults and kids are hungry for it. This [donation] helps us provide better opportunities for that.

“The addition of a full-time DRE frees me to do more adult education, more catechist training, and allows our youth more opportunities to participate,” he continued.

In talking about the need to support the upcoming appeal, Underwood circled back to this year’s theme of the common good, and a focus on the bigger picture.

“It is important for parishioners to donate and help where they can,” Underwood said. “The many ministries of the diocese have

growing needs — needs that come with dollar costs. But it’s also important for us to focus on the ministries and their missions more than the dollars and cents aspect and to remain grateful to God for all He gives that we can never repay.” 🇺🇸



NTC photo/James Bezdek

Father Joseph Keating of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church received funds for a full-time director of religious education for both parishes.

Father Joy Joseph of Holy Cross Church in The Colony received \$35,000 last year and \$25,000 each of the next two years to fund a full-time youth minister.

“We didn’t have a full-time director and felt we were not meeting the spiritual

Your Gift at Work

“The addition of a full-time DRE frees me to do more adult education, more catechist training, and allows our youth more opportunities to participate.”

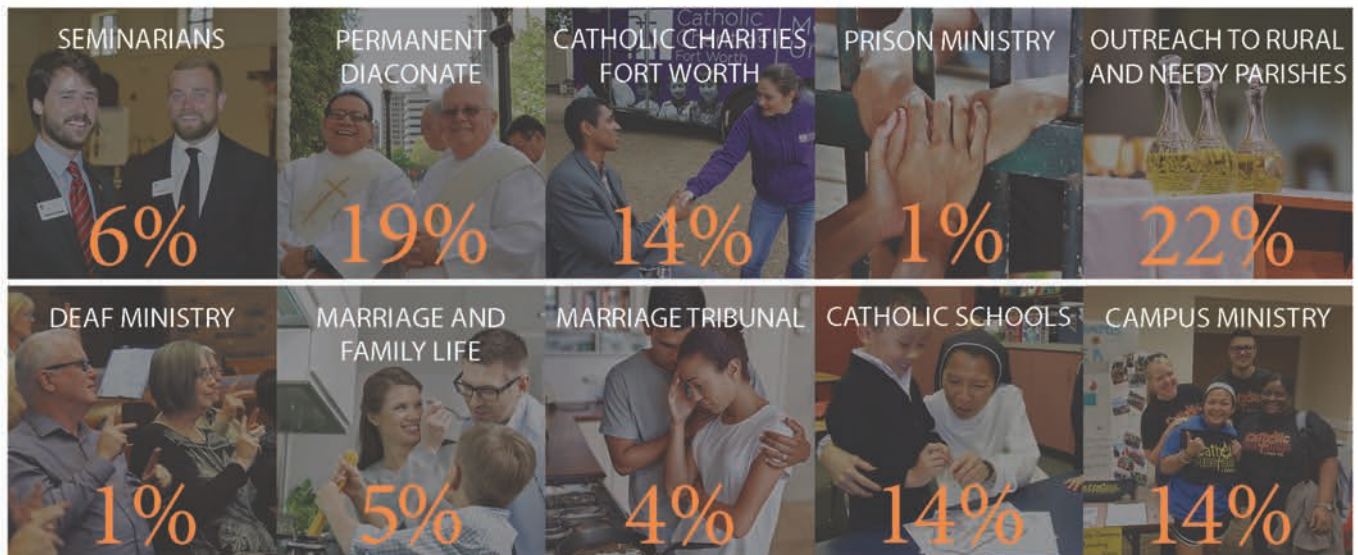
— **Father Joseph Keating, Pastor**
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbott
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Penelope



PEOPLE ANNUAL *Diocesan Appeal* 2017 *Giving to* PEOPLE

THANKS TO *you* WE RAISED **\$3,020,167**
95.88% OF OUR GOAL

TO SUPPORT:



For a complete report of giving to the 2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal, please visit bit.ly/AnnualDiocesanAppeal.



ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION
Supporting the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth



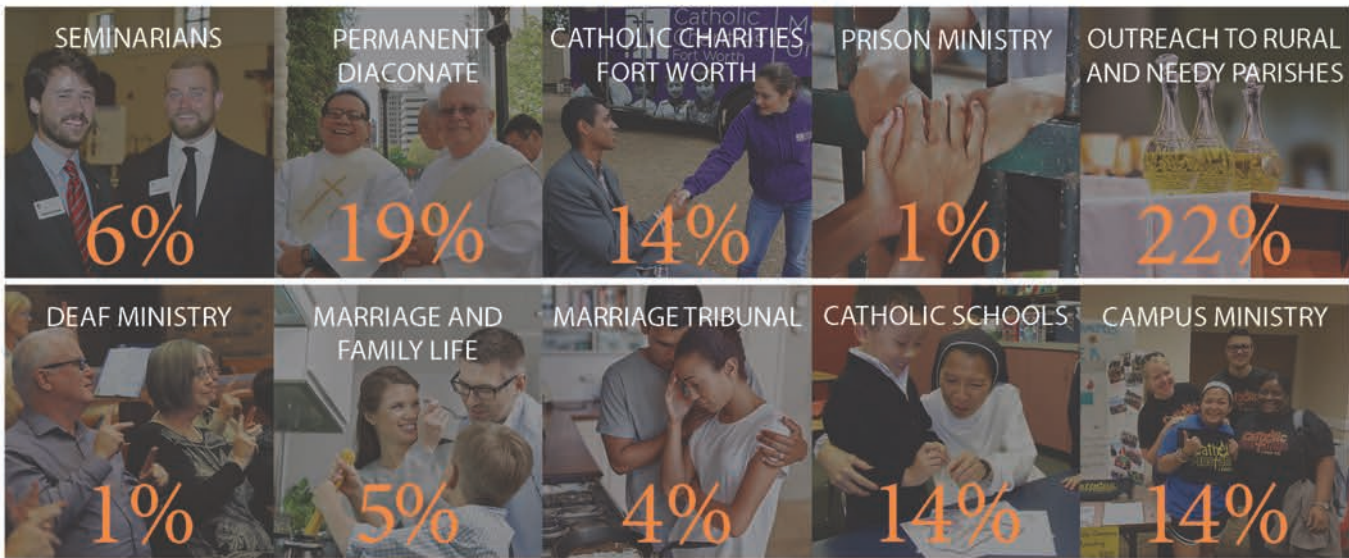
800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108 • 817-945-9441



PEOPLE *ANNUAL Diocesan Appeal* 2017
Giving to
 PEOPLE

THANKS TO *you* WE RAISED **\$3,020,167**
95.88% OF OUR GOAL

TO SUPPORT:



For a complete report of giving to the 2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal, please visit bit.ly/AnnualDiocesanAppeal.



ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION
 Supporting the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth



800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108 • 817-945-9441

MAKING THEIR MARKS

...on the 28-county Diocese of Fort Worth.
An introduction to new faces at
the Catholic Center.

Interviews by **Lance Murray**
Photos by **Juan Guajardo**

Terri Schauf RESPECT LIFE



POSITION: Director of Respect Life Ministries.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Help implement the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities within the diocese, joining a national effort to nurture, protect, and sustain human life from conception to natural death.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRIES: The previous director oversaw all Respect Life ministries. Now Gabriel Project and Rachel Ministries are coordinated by Catholic Charities to improve access to volunteers and social services resources. Youth Ministries now supervises Youth for Life activities to encourage wider participation.

EMPHASIS: Educating the catechists so they can encourage pro-life at the parish level.

FAITHFUL EDUCATOR: Education director for Texans for Life Coalition. Prior to that, she worked as education coordinator for the Catholic Pro-Life Committee from 2001 to 2008. She has also taught in Catholic schools.

FAITHFUL EDUCATION: She earned a bachelor of arts degree from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

AN ANSWER TO PRAYER: Marlon De La Torre, diocesan director of catechesis, asked her to pray about the position. She felt it was a good fit because she has been a lifelong advocate for unborn babies, she has a strong background in education, and the position is part-time, allowing her more time with her two small children.

Gary Patton HUMAN RESOURCES



POSITION: Director of Human Resources

EXPERTISE: Thirty years with international companies with offices in Costa Rica, the Philippines, Mexico, and India, and achievements like helping oversee 125 company acquisitions. Plus, as a self-employed consultant more recently, he experienced “different environments, different cultures” with clients in Colombia and throughout the U.S.

ON WORKING FOR THE DIOCESE: The Catholic convert said, “I came to bring my experience in creating systems and other programs but also came here for my faith. It’s about coming and serving God and the diocese and learning how to strengthen my faith.”

AS BIG AS (NORTH) TEXAS: Patton will oversee all Human Resources:

benefits, retirements, workers’ compensation, hiring, and Safe Environment.

ON THE ROAD: He and his wife — after relocating from Georgia — have begun visiting all 90 parishes in the diocese to personally meet the pastors, office managers, and parish employees.

GOAL: Patton looks forward to learning about, working with, and being a resource for the diocese’s parishes, pastors, and Catholic schools. “I want to partner with you and learn how your area runs and what you need for me to help you” so he can “make good decisions, be a contributor, as well as serve God.”



James Suter LEGAL COUNSEL



POSITION: General Counsel

RESPONSIBILITIES: Providing legal support for employment law matters, real estate transactions, compliance with laws and regulations, contract drafting and review, and managing any litigation involving the diocese.

ON IN-HOUSE LAWYERS: The position is new to the diocese, but Suter said “every

organization — whether public or private, for-profit or nonprofit, secular or religious — has a need for legal services.”

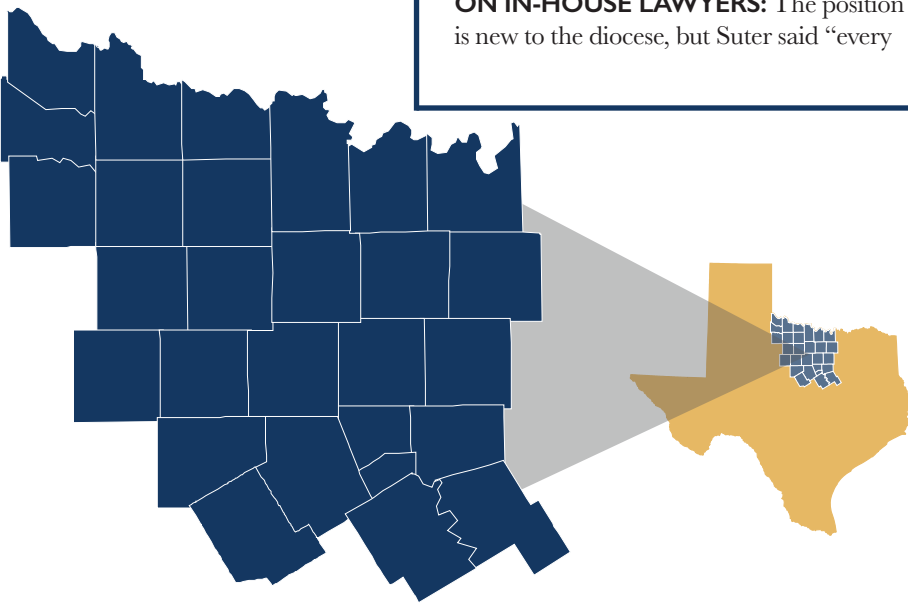
BACKGROUND: Assistant district attorney in Wichita County, Texas for about nine years, then practiced with a civil law firm in Burkburnett and Wichita Falls. He has a Bachelor of business administration from Texas A&M University and Juris Doctor and M.B.A. degrees from Texas Tech University.

ON WORKING FOR THE DIOCESE:

Suter appreciates, “the ability to intertwine my faith and my work. It’s truly an environment where decisions are based on what is right and just, rather than what is just expedient.”

ON COMPARTMENTALIZATION IN SOCIETY:

“We’re all about work on weekdays, our families in the evenings, and God on Sundays. And while it’s important to focus our attention on what we’re doing at the moment, our faith is not something that should just be placed on the back burner until it’s time to go to Mass.”



Steve Becht REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION

POSITION: Director of Real Estate and Construction

EXPERTISE: An engineer, attorney, and real estate broker from Indiana with more than 25 years of experience in construction design and management.

ON WORKING FOR THE DIOCESE: Disillusioned with an increasing corporate emphasis on profits over people, the lifelong Catholic said, “If I can spend the rest of my career helping build Christ’s churches, or helping his Church one way or the other,

that’s what I’m going to do.”

ROLES: A “fiduciary and counselor” to protect and advise parishes and the diocese on construction, facilities, and real estate.

FROM GROUND LEVEL: Becht said about 90 percent of the potential cost savings in a construction project occurs during the planning and design phases, so he wants to provide early



recommendations to parishes as they develop the concept and negotiate with the architect and builder.

FROM 10,000 FEET: Becht will advise the bishop on buying real estate to serve the future needs of the growing Catholic population in the region, which is among the fastest growing in Texas.

THREE GOALS: Recommend better methods for planning and construction project delivery; faster schedules from concept to completion; and more cost-effective ways to build and operate facilities.

Continued on Page 18

Richard Mathews SAFE ENVIRONMENT



POSITION: Director of Safe Environment

THE ROLE: Creating a safe environment and culture for children and vulnerable adults in the diocese by screening all clergy, employees, and volunteers and educating them about the dynamics of abuse and abuse prevention strategies.

BACKGROUND: An attorney since 1982, Mathews has lengthy experience in youth protection and child abuse prevention through his work as general counsel of the Boy Scouts of America and general counsel for Trail Life USA.

AN IMPACT: Mathews saw first-hand

the lasting pain and devastation from child sexual abuse cases as he mediated cases for the Boy Scouts. “The opportunity to potentially spare children, or anybody, from the pain and huge loss of abuse is very powerful.”

ON WORKING FOR THE DIOCESE:

“My Catholic faith guides, directs, and completely informs my work. It creates peace in my vocation, knowing that I am where God wants me to be.”

THE MAN IN THE WHITE HAT:

Since his early days as a prosecuting attorney, Mathews wanted to make a difference with his career. “God can take certain experiences and opportunities I’ve had and use it as a blessing for others and me.”

Robert Molyet CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



POSITION: Athletic Director

athletic director.

THE ROLE: A new position to “build an athletic program in partnership with parents and guided by our Catholic teachings and virtues.” He wants sports to “help develop every aspect of the child – the religious, moral, social, intellectual, and physical development.”

THE CHALLENGE: “The diocese is so large and really growing, so the challenges are ever changing, and that makes the job an adventure.”

WHAT HASN’T CHANGED: Coaches want to win and athletes want to have fun and see improvement.

WHAT HAS CHANGED: Creating a culture that puts athletics in proper perspective. The goal is “to be our very best and to win, but the purpose of athletics is to help develop

well-rounded young men and women who can make a difference in this world.”

A SUCCESSFUL COACH: Molds the youth of the diocese into men and women of great character.

MEET THE NEW PRINCIPALS

For full versions of these profiles, visit NorthTexasCatholic.org



Lisa Giardino
St. Peter the Apostle School
Fort Worth

“Catholic schools serve the common good of humanity by nurturing the souls of our students in a strong Catholic faith formation through rigorous religious academic curriculum.”



Kimberly Pierce
St. Maria Goretti School
Arlington

“My mission is to make a difference in the lives of children, faculty, and community, so they are empowered to make a difference in the lives of those in their communities.”



Diane Price
St. Joseph School
Arlington

“In a world where the Light of Christ struggles to be seen, the Catholic school is a shining beacon; an outward sign of our belief in Jesus Christ.”

NEW LEADERSHIP OUTLINES VISION FOR NOLAN

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

As the new principal of Tarrant County's largest Catholic high school, Leah Rios, the former principal at St. Maria Goretti School in Arlington, won't be the only new face greeting underclassmen when the school year begins. Charles McGrath was named president of Nolan Catholic High School and John McNichol is the new dean of students. Both men are natives of Canada and spent their careers in Catholic schools.

ENSURING NOLAN'S MISSION

McGrath is no stranger to Texas. While employed at St. Michael's Catholic Academy in Austin, he received a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Texas. He then worked in Birmingham, Alabama before accepting the position at Nolan.

"My job every day is to ensure the mission of Nolan is enhanced and fulfilled in everything we do," McGrath said. "My focus is to make possible for any student or family who wants a Nolan education — regardless of circumstances — to have that opportunity and answer that need."

Resources from the community are necessary to make that dream possible, he admitted. As president, he will oversee fundraising, development, and public relations while working with the advisory council and serving as a liaison with the Catholic Schools Office.

RESPECT, FAITH, RELATIONSHIP

As dean of students, John McNichol hopes to foster a positive environment that is respectful and faith-filled. "When I had students or folks who weren't sympathetic or familiar with the Catholic faith or my worldview, I found that giving respect and gently saying, 'this is what we believe



From left, John McNichol, Leah Rios, and Charles McGrath assume new leadership positions at Nolan Catholic High School. (NTC photo/Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



For the full version of this article plus more photos, visit NorthTexasCatholic.org

and why,' actually had a good impact," McNichol explained.

After graduating from college, the former Toronto resident considered a law career until he spent a year teaching all grade levels in a one-room schoolhouse.

"That year — as challenging as it was — confirmed to me that I wanted to be a teacher," recalled McNichol.

After teaching 16 years, the middle school teacher moved from the Pacific Northwest to pursue a doctorate at the University of Dallas.

"As a teacher for well over 20 years, I've found consistent ways to work with staff, parents, administration, and students. Respect and building relationships: that eventually works through any challenge you experience in the education realm."

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

"I'm certainly up for the challenge," Rios said. "I couldn't wait to get started and figuring out what we needed to do to serve these kids."

The San Antonio native was initially drawn to television and worked for NBC and PBS affiliates in her hometown.

After moving to Fort Worth, she enrolled her daughter in a Montessori school and grew so interested, she became Montessori certified and taught preschool. Since then, she's earned a master's in education with an emphasis in dyslexia.

The learning support specialist worked at a charter school before joining St. Andrew as an academic specialist and later assistant principal. In 2015, she was appointed principal of St. Maria Goretti.

"The high school level is our last opportunity to fill them with Christ and give them that last push of faith to make good choices," Rios observed. "When a person walks onto the Nolan campus, I want them to feel Christ. That's why people should want to be here." 🇺🇸

REALLY PRE

St. Peter the Apostle Parish
Adoration with providential

By Mary Lou Seewoester

When Martin Daley of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Fort Worth approached his pastor about starting Perpetual Adoration, the result was providential.

“He had tears in his eyes,” Daley recalled, “and he said, ‘I’ve been waiting for someone to come to me.’”

Daley did not know that Father Manuel Holguin had been praying for Perpetual Adoration in Fort Worth even before becoming pastor in July 2016. And Fr. Holguin was not aware that Daley had been writing to Bishop Michael Olson about Perpetual Adoration since 2015.

“It was very providential,” Fr. Holguin said, “It was my desire as well, and he came to me at the perfect time. God’s timing is perfect.”

The timing was perfect because the St. Peter Youth Center was under renovation, including remodeling of a small chapel that could easily become a Perpetual Adoration chapel.

The St. Teresa of Calcutta Perpetual Adoration Chapel is nearly complete, with an altar, stained glass windows, candelabra, and a small sacristy in place.

Fr. Holguin said he wanted Perpetual Adoration at his parish because it offers the opportunity to experience the fruits and benefits of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament any time, day or night.

“We have this wonderful gift, the real presence of our God in the Eucharist. It’s important for people to be aware and value this gift that we have as Catholics — that we know He is really present.”

In receiving permission from Bishop Olson for Perpetual Adoration, Fr. Holguin explained he also had

NTC photo/Juan Guajardo

PRESENT

Parish launches Perpetual Adoration with optimal timing

to “protect both the Blessed Sacrament and the people.”

To do that, the parish installed security cameras inside and outside of the chapel. Between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., only scheduled adorers may enter the chapel via a coded keypad. A professional security agency also patrols the area outside of the chapel from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Deacon Wendell Geiger of St. Peter, who helped organize the Adoration schedule, admitted at first he was skeptical about being able to find the required two adorers for every hour of every day.

“But there has been an amazing turnout. The word got out and people started coming out of the woodwork,” he said. Only Sunday morning has no scheduled adorers.

“This has to be God’s work,” he added. “We even started getting phone calls from people in other parishes who heard about it by word of mouth...we didn’t contact them, they contacted us.”

Dcn. Geiger said that with adorers from surrounding parishes, Perpetual Adoration “is really serving a wider community. It will be a gift to whole area and I’m so pleased that people are seeking this.”

Fr. Holguin invites anyone who wants to spend an hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to become an adorer.

“The Lord is waiting for you,” he said. “It’s good to have communication with Him — openness to Him. And experience His openness to us.”

Those interested in becoming a regular adorer may register on the parish’s website at stpeterfw.com/adoration-registration. 📍

Helpful ideas for Eucharistic Adoration

Deacon Don Warner, Director of Liturgy and Worship, told the *NTC* many kinds of prayer are fruitful during Eucharistic Adoration.

“The important thing is to find whatever source of prayer that is meaningful to you and speaks to you and to your heart,” he said.

“We can just spend quiet time gazing at the Lord in worship and allow the Lord to enter into our being in a time of quiet. We don’t have to be doing something the entire time,” Dcn. Warner added.

The Adoration Finder link on the diocesan website lists 45 parishes that offer year-round daily or weekly Adoration.

Dcn. Warner suggests:

- Quietly pray the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, or other devotional
- Pray with Scripture, Mass readings for the day, Liturgy of the Hours, or other holy literature
- Lectio Divina
- Meditate on a Scripture passage and allow it to permeate your being and hear what God is saying to you.
- Keep a prayer journal
- Abide in sacred silence before the Eucharist



Visit the photo gallery at NorthTexasCatholic.org for more photos of Perpetual Adoration and other stories.



CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

An independent Catholic preparatory school educating boys grades 5-12 in an all-honors curriculum.

Join us: Admissions Open House
Tuesday, October 3, 8:30 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

3660 Cistercian Road, Irving, Texas 75039 • (469) 499-5400
www.cistercian.org • admissions@cistercian.org

Cistercian Preparatory School does not discriminate in the administration of its admission and education policies on the basis of race, color, religion, or national or ethnic origin.

OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pro-life ministries decentralize, director Michael Demma retires

By Matthew Smith

Because of the value, responsibility, and mission of pro-life promotion throughout the local Church, three ministries which operated under Respect Life's umbrella have moved to other departments.

"My previous experience in corporate organizations taught me that something as important as pro-life can't be done by someone in one office. You have to move it into the pews," said Michael Demma, the Respect Life director who retired June 30.

Rachel Ministries, an abortion recovery ministry, and Gabriel Project, which provides help to women in crisis pregnancies, recently moved under Catholic Charities Fort Worth's auspices.

Rachel Ministries Director Betsy Kopor said, "I'm absolutely excited about the move, because I know the staff at Catholic

Charities is in line with the goals of Rachel Ministries.

"This brings more resources for those who reach out to Catholic Charities," Kopor said. "They're engaged in the parishes and service oriented.

"Catholic Charities has a mission to end poverty. Many women, after an abortion, struggle with decisions, which can lead to poverty among other things. So this move, I think, is another avenue for Rachel Ministries to help people."

Angela Walters, director of Gabriel Project, also called Catholic Charities' additional resources a plus.

"They have the administrative services to better recruit volunteers and educate the parishes," Walters said. "I think the move strengthens the cohesiveness between parishes, Gabriel moms, and Catholic Charities to bring spiritual, emotional, and material needs together to ensure the mothers get all the services they need."

Youth for Life, the third ministry to recently move, is now directed by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry where the Respect Life message will be shared at each and every diocesan youth event.

40 Days for Life



NTC photo/Ben Torres

Making cribs for Gabriel Project



NTC photo/Juan Guajardo

Healing at Rachel



Although it must be monitored, Demma said he has little fear that the mission of Respect Life and the various ministries will be lost or watered down as the focus shifts more to individual parishes and volunteers.

“The concept of pro-life and respect for life is a living concept and doing well in the Diocese of Fort Worth,” Demma said. “We’re making these changes because we’re so pro-life and looking for the most effective ways to get people involved and promote the culture of life.”

Respect Life looks to the guidance of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities in carrying out its mission to advance the culture of life by promoting the dignity of every life from conception to natural death. Prayer, education, pastoral care, and civic action provide the tools for that mission.

Volunteers ran Respect Life as an apostolate of the diocese until 2009 when then Bishop Kevin Vann made it an official diocesan office.

“We’re very grateful to Mike Demma because this was an area that really needed to be an inherent part of the ministry of the local Church, but it was fragmented with different people who had been self-starters,” Bishop Michael Olson said. “Through Mike’s leadership, patience, and his assertiveness, he was able to help us integrate pro-life work into the catechesis of the diocese as well as our evangelization.”

Demma retired after 17 years with Respect Life, serving as



Michael Demma

director for the past five. Previously, Demma spent 30 years at IBM, in addition to other corporations, gaining experience he said helped immeasurably in his Respect Life duties.

Terri Schauf succeeded Demma as director of pro-life ministries, but Demma intends to remain involved in several ways including as a Respect Life committee member at his parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller.

“I’ll work with Terri outside the [diocesan office] as a volunteer,” Demma said. “I’m leaving the office but not leaving Respect Life work. I’ll be available to parishes for speaking engagements, teaching, and to help as the Respect Life office is restructured for better effectiveness and efficiency.”

That, Demma said, includes outreach to women considering or who have had abortions and harbor little hope or see few options. It includes encouraging older parishioners to pass their wisdom and values on to the younger generation.

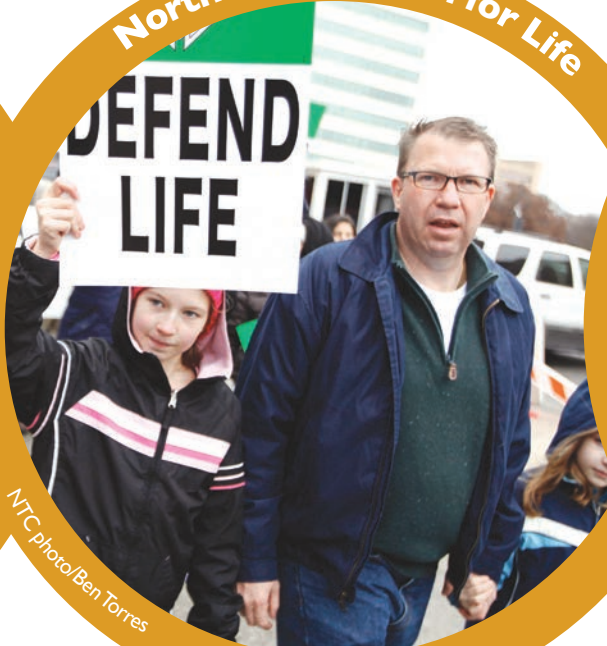
More than anything, it includes programs targeted at youth such as Spiritual Adoption, a group of volunteers who, among other things, teach dignity of life issues in Catholic schools in ways young students can relate.

“If we’re to stop abortion in the future, we have to reverse the culture of death that’s been taught to our children,” Demma said. “We have to teach our children from a young age about the dignity of life — that all life has dignity rooted in the fact that we are made in the image and likeness of God.” 🇺🇸

Rachel Ministries



North Texas March for Life



NTC photo/Ben Torres

Pro-life Boot Camp



NTC photo/Juan Guajardo

YOURS are the HANDS

with which He blesses the world

A look at a cross-section
of ministers in the
Kingdom of God

Stories by Susan Moses

Photos by Jayme Shedenhelm

I John 4:20 says true love of Christ
pushes one to extend that love to
others.

Indeed, in our Blessed Lord's last moments on earth, as He celebrated Passover with his disciples, Jesus gave us a model by kneeling down and washing the disciples' feet. It wasn't just a ceremonial act, it was an example of our role as members of the Body of Christ: to set aside our pride, egos, and convenience and pick up our Cross by emulating Christ's love. "Blessed are you if you do it," He reminds us in John's Gospel (13:17).

We recognize these ministers and volunteers, representative of many others throughout our 28-county diocese, for their willingness to be what St. Teresa of Avila calls the hands and feet of Christ.

While there aren't enough pages to feature all the ministers, volunteers, youth, and other unsung "laborers" in our diocese, we hope this cross-section provides at least some idea of how diverse and active the members of the Body of Christ is. And for those who we couldn't feature, we at the *NTC* thank you profoundly for your witness and your love in action.



Hope Behind Bars

Jesus Villalpando

Jesus Villalpando has spent 16 years in the county jail, and he intends to stay. The St. Peter the Apostle parishioner volunteers two evenings each week at the Tarrant County Corrections Center.

He joins inmates for Mass on Wednesday, which is celebrated by Father George Thennattil, TOR, and on Friday he leads them in the Rosary. Five other men from the diocese also regularly volunteer at the downtown facility, and others volunteer at the Tarrant County Green Bay Facility and Federal Medical Center Carswell.

Twelve-year prison ministry volunteer Roger Sickler admitted it's normal to be "a little skittish the first time the steel doors close behind you," but said the volunteers find it "as rewarding to them as to the

One Mother Helping Another

Anne Lorenzo

What do you do when you are young, single, and pregnant in a small Iowa town and the biological father is encouraging you to have an abortion? You do the difficult thing – the right thing. Then, years later you urge other women in similar circumstances to do likewise.

Anne Lorenzo stood outside in a downpour the first time she went to Planned Parenthood to pray for the women considering abortion and their unborn babies. She now serves as a sidewalk counselor, waving at cars turning into the abortion clinic and asking in a compassionate voice, “Hey, can I talk to you for a minute?”

A minority of women will stop and take the offered brochure about abortion alternatives. That brief encounter is not long enough to hear Lorenzo’s story: that she faced a similar dilemma many years ago. The baby from her unplanned pregnancy has grown up to serve our country as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps and flies F-18s.

Lorenzo said sometimes it’s difficult to know if the prayer and sidewalk counseling outside Planned Parenthood makes a difference. Some days it’s apparent, such as the day a few months ago when a prospective



Continued on Page 30

inmates.”

According to Villalpando, the men are receptive and eager to learn. After Mass, they ask questions and discuss the Scripture readings. During the bilingual Rosary, inmates offer to lead each decade and join in singing spiritual songs between each mystery.

Among the prayers and Bible discussion, Villalpando shares stories about how God has worked in his life and encourages the prisoners to live in a manner pleasing to God and their families. He tells them, “You have nothing else to do here. Start changing your life for God and

Continued on Page 30



Helping “Happily” Last “Ever After”

Annette and Tom Snodgrass

Annette and Tom Snodgrass love being married, and they want to share that joy with others. That’s the only qualification for their ministry, according to Tom. And that made it easy to say “yes” when another parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena in Carrollton asked them to be a sponsor couple.

In 13 years, the Snodgrass’ have assisted about 25 couples planning to marry. Annette explained their large investment of time. “The Catholic Church raises it [marriage] to the level of a sacrament. It’s a grace given to us from God. It’s treated it as a beautiful vocation, so we’re excited about helping other couples.”

In their ministry, Annette and Tom meet with engaged couples after the prospective bride and groom have each taken a long premarital inventory questionnaire.

The sponsors build trust and friendship with the engaged couple over six to eight sessions, facilitating discussions on common topics which can challenge a marriage, such as

family norms, finances, and even expectations about where to spend the first Christmas as a married couple. Also, the questionnaire frequently reveals matters where the bride and groom differ. These are often issues the prospective bride and groom have thought about individually but not discussed together, said Annette.

Although the sponsors do give observations and examples from their own marriage, they quickly explain they are not counselors. “We don’t try to resolve anything, we just give them tools and get them talking. The Lord matched them up,” said Annette.

“We start the discussion now, to get them prepared for future discussions,” added Tom.

Still, wise newlyweds may glean some advice from the Snodgrass’ 18 years of marital joy. First, they recognize that marriage is a three-party covenant between a husband, a wife, and God. Also, they pray both individually and as a couple and schedule time to spend together.

Although Tom and Annette make their marriage a priority, Annette admitted “we’re still learning” and tell each engaged couple, “we’re on the journey with you. My job is to get him to heaven, and his job is to get me to heaven.”



GET INVOLVED!

If you’d like to be a sponsor couple, please check with your parish office or contact Chris Vaughan at 817-945-9351.





Shining Light In The Darkness

Carol Nichols and Mary Jo Babcock

When God speaks louder than the vacuum cleaner, He gets your attention. In 2006 the late Monsignor Charles King, then pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton, asked Mary Jo Babcock to begin a bereavement ministry. With no idea how to begin, she procrastinated. But one day as she vacuumed, she heard the Lord tell her to “quit making excuses already.”

Now in its eleventh year, the bereavement ministry at Immaculate Conception Parish makes phone calls to those who have recently lost loved ones and invites them to a monthly support group for informal sharing and listening.

Richard Godoy, a licensed clinical social worker with the Denton Police Department, volunteers his time to moderate the meetings, which are open to anyone in the community. Some individuals attend a few months, others longer, and a few have returned, bringing a friend who has lost a special someone.

According to Babcock, who lost her husband in a tragic accident in 1988, speaking about the agony and pain of loss has a two-fold benefit. It helps heal the one who speaks, and it reassures those who listen they are not alone or “losing their mind.”

Babcock said the “Spirit of God orchestrates the discussion. God is our healer, and when we come together in a circle of love and share stories, we can deal better with the situation.” She explained the circumstances vary, from lengthy illnesses to suicides, but the group “listens to each other, shows love for each other, and has compassion for each other.”

Knowing that holidays can be especially difficult, the bereavement ministry conducts special services during Advent and Lent at Immaculate Conception that attract as many as 30 people. The ministry also sends sympathy cards and provides booklets to those who have lost a loved one.

Carol Nichols, who currently coordinates the nine-member team, noted that grief can be isolating, but those who suffer a loss need to understand they have not been abandoned. “Our members feel called to give people support and show them care and concern, show them the love of God.”



GET INVOLVED!

If you're interested in bereavement ministry, please visit fwdioc.org/grief-ministry or contact your parish office for opportunities.

Meeting Needs Where They Are

Sue and Don
Ochsner

After completing a social justice program 14 years ago, Sue and Don Ochsner and two other couples began a St. Vincent de Paul conference at their parish, St. Joseph in Arlington. Because the church lacked the space for food distribution, the volunteers went to the client's homes.

Sue explained that by sitting down in someone's home “we find they are much more open to discussing their situation with us. They feel so relaxed in their own home. It's a more spiritual kind of

Continued on Page 28



OCHSNERS from Page 27

interaction.”

Those kitchen table conversations can reveal the client’s needs beyond the bags of groceries the St. Vincent de Paul members deliver when they arrive. Broken-down car or nonfunctional air conditioner? According to Don, the conference has purchased parts and arranged for parishioners to make those repairs.

For clients under the burden of high-interest loans, the St. Vincent de Paul conference also operates a mini-loan conversion program. As other needs arise, they refer to Catholic Charities and other social service organizations.

Sue said people’s lives can change quickly due to unexpected medical bills or job loss, so “people who can give back need to give back. We’re really all in this together.”

St. Joseph parishioners agree, supporting the conference with food drives and financial donations.

Another unique aspect to the St. Vincent de Paul conference is their responsiveness. Interactions usually begin with someone leaving a message on their helpline. A team member calls back within 24 hours, and a home visit occurs the next day.

Clients often are reluctant to ask for help, so they hesitate until they receive an eviction notice or utility shut-off letter. “We can act quickly,” Don said. A check to the utility company or landlord can be mailed promptly.

The conference has grown from its original six to 41 members, allowing them to make 980 visits last year within the boundaries of St. Joseph Parish. Although charity is their primary activity, spirituality is their top priority. Sue concluded, “We hope that [the clients] can see Christ in us and we are bringing Christ to them in our visits.”



GET INVOLVED!

If you’d like to get involved with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, please visit svdpfw.org or contact Pat McMann at 214-663-5563.

Fanning Sparks In Wichita Falls

Debbie Neely

No matter where you are from, you’ll feel at home when you walk into the Catholic Center at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls.

About 30 colorful flags hang from the ceiling, including the flag from your home country, even if you are from Nigeria or Guam or Dominica. Campus Ministry Director Debbie Neely makes sure your country is represented.

Underneath the flags, comfortable sofas encourage students to hang out and connect with their peers. With no TV, conversations happen.

“Having a place to have the stillness to talk about God and listen to God is vitally important in the middle

of all the other busyness that happens in college and the other distractions that can pull somebody away all the time,” explained Neely.

In the relaxed, comfortable setting, students raise questions, lower facades, and realize they have similar struggles.

According to Neely, financial stress and managing the responsibilities of school and work are common problems. But away from home for the first time, these students grapple with much bigger questions: Who am I? What do I value? What is God calling me to do?

About 200 students each year search for answers in the context of Mass, fellowship meals, retreats, prayer meetings, and other faith-enriching





GET INVOLVED!

If you'd like to participate in or learn more about Campus Ministry, please visit fwyam.org/cm-locations or contact Jeff Hedglen at 817-460-1155.

activities at the Catholic Center. An annual mission trip to Guatemala provides exposure to the global Church and builds solidarity as they visit the sick in humble homes or play soccer with schoolchildren.

With 16 years in campus ministry, Neely understands the importance of this stage of faith development. "A lot of students walk away from their faith in college. Being at a public campus and having college students who walk through our door — I just

celebrate that. It means they think 'there's something about this [faith] I need to continue as I'm growing into a young adult.'

"It's them beginning to be a part of a Christian community that they choose. Then, if they have a positive experience, they can go on and replicate that in a parish and not just attend Mass on Sunday but be in a small faith community when they graduate."



A Knight In Shining Cookware

Ben Wieberg

Ben Wieberg's bucket list could be straight from *Matthew 25:35-36*: "... I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."

In 60 years as a Knight of Columbus, Wieberg has done all of that — visiting inmates, accompanying brother Knights to medical appointments, and buying vestments for missionary priests.

Several chance encounters with strangers have developed into lifelong friendships, such as the 15-year-old truant that Wieberg befriended and mentored. Now his young friend drives a tank in the U.S. Army. An unplanned conversation between Wieberg, his sister, and some musicians in Germany has developed into 30 years of reciprocal visits, including a performance by the band at the Texas State Fair.

When it comes to feeding the hungry, the St. Maria Goretti parishioner excels. Each month, he cooks for the University Catholic Community at University of Texas at Arlington.

Preparing a homemade meal for about 75 students takes four days, "one to plan, one to shop, one to prepare, and a day to cook," he said. The menu varies with the month — bratwurst and homemade sauerkraut in October, ham and scalloped potatoes around Easter.

Mutual affection has grown between the students and Wieberg. "Their strength in their faith makes me really love and respect them. They do the Rosary in front of the library. The Stations of the Cross out there, too. It's a great group," he explained.

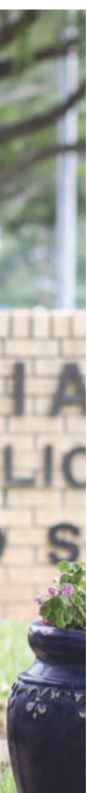
The lifelong Catholic began serving at daily Mass as a boy and continued during his tour in Vietnam with the U.S. Navy. "I went to Mass every day when I was there because I had the opportunity. And I was scared to death. I'm a great believer in the power of prayer."

Wieberg's service to others, Church, and country began with his mother's example. "She was always doing a lot of good things for people. She'd make you a pie if you were sick. But I can out-cook her now," he quipped.



GET INVOLVED!

If you'd like to join the Knights of Columbus, visit KofCKnights.org/diocese.asp?d=2 or contact Chris Stark at 817-439-9292.



LORENZO from Page 25

patient stopped. She began crying and said that she didn't want an abortion but felt she had no other options. She'd been praying that God would show her what to do.

For that woman and many others, that next step can be the Gabriel Project, which provides practical assistance to women in crisis pregnancies. Lorenzo also volunteers as a Gabriel Angel to two mothers — one now has a one-year-old, and the other an expectant mother.

A St. Francis of Assisi parishioner, Lorenzo said she's been "truly blessed by God." She met her husband, Nick, when her son was just a few months old, and they built a successful business.

Wanting to share those blessings with others, Lorenzo felt called to serve and discovered her niche in these two pro-life ministries. "Jesus said to 'Love thy neighbor.' When you are helping them, that's what Jesus wants us to do."



GET INVOLVED!

If you'd like to be a Gabriel Angel, please visit fwdioc.org/gabriel-project or contact Angela Walters at 817-247-5615.

VILLALPANDO from Page 25

living for Him."

Most times when inmates are released or transferred, prison volunteers lose contact with them. However, Sickler once received a letter from an inmate who was transferred to the state prison for life. The prisoner thanked Sickler, saying he brought hope and the inmate would have considered suicide otherwise. In another instance, Villalpando happened to stop into a fast food restaurant for coffee and heard someone call his name. A former inmate was eating with his wife and children. The wife thanked Villalpando and said her husband was now a better person than the man who had gone into prison. Villalpando told her to thank God for her husband's transformation.

Even when the ministry's results are unknown, Villalpando finds sharing the Gospel with prisoners worthwhile. "Twenty are approved to attend our services, but I would do it just for one."



GET INVOLVED!

If you'd like to be a prison minister, please visit fwdioc.org/prison-ministry-about or contact Den. Bruce Corbett at 817-880-5479.

Lectio Divina

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

Start by reading the background and then using the steps on the right to reflect on the Scripture verse. Then read Callie's meditation slowly.

BACKGROUND

The story of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross goes back several centuries to the early 400s. It was then that Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, traveled to Jerusalem to visit the holy places Christ ministered in. Tradition tells us she ordered an excavation at the site of our Savior's tomb and the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre be built there. During excavation, workers found three ancient crosses. Legend has it that the one on which our Lord died was identified when a woman was healed by its touch.

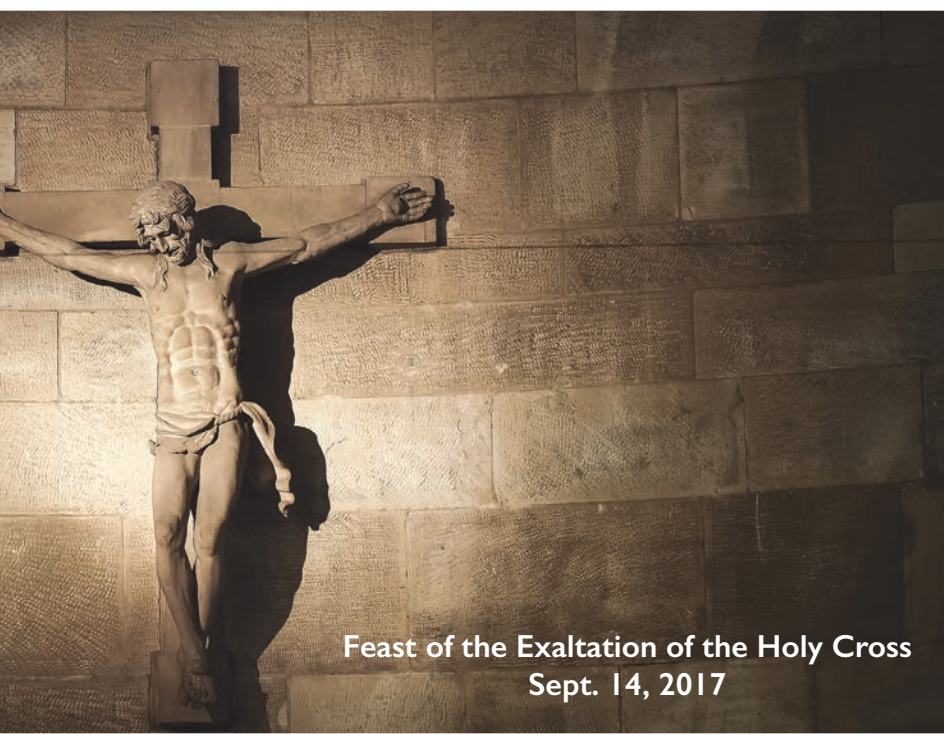
The cross immediately became an object of veneration. To this day, the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox churches celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross every September — the anniversary of the basilica's dedication.

The tradition entered the western Church's calendar in the seventh century.



Callie Nowlin

Callie Nowlin, MTS, is a convert turned Latin teacher, catechist, and blogger with a passion for Scripture and helping others on their journey toward Christ.



Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Sept. 14, 2017

THE SCRIPTURE

Second Reading for September 14, 2017, Feast
of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Brothers and sisters:

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form
of God, did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form
of a slave, coming in human likeness; and
found human in appearance, he humbled
himself, becoming obedient to death, even
death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is
above every name, that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend... *Philippians 2:6-10*

Lectio

- ▶ First, deliberately read the passage, noting the phrases that move your heart.

Meditatio

- ▶ Secondly, ponder these words and ask God in prayer, "What do you desire that I hear in this?"

Oratio

- ▶ Third, speak back to the Lord as your heart is moved.

Contemplatio

- ▶ Finally, be still trusting in his presence. Simply rest in the Word of God.

REFLECTION

The great hymn in Philippians is the earliest recorded hymn of the Christian faith.


I love this hymn because of a specific word that is used, "exalted." In the hymn, it states that Jesus "humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this God greatly exalted him." Because of Jesus' humility, God raised Jesus up from this lowered state.

In today's feast, we celebrate the triumph of the Cross of Christ, we lift Him high in victory and in worship. When we sing "Lift High the Cross," we are singing in worship of Him and his triumph. For us to exalt Him, to raise Him up above our heads, is an act of worship. But for Jesus to be raised by the Father means something completely different, for God does not raise Jesus above Him, but to Him, as his son.

Both for the ancient church and for us today, this hymn from Philippians is proclaimed in the context of the Mass. This context is important because in the encounter of the Mass, we are reminded of our humanity but also of the transcendence of the godhead. To put it another way, we are reminded that we are not God and that we belong to Him. In the very raising of Jesus, above our heads in triumph, which incidentally the cross-bearer does at the beginning and end of every Mass, we affirm these same truths: That He is God. That we are not. That He is triumphant in his cross and resurrection. That we belong to Him. And this is the God whom we worship.

These are jarring and life-changing truths. I invite you consider these truths anew with me today as the Church celebrates her Lord's victory on the sacred wood of the cross, calling to mind the true and living God to whom we all belong. 🇺🇸

▲
Scripture texts in this work are taken from the New American Bible, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.



UNITED IN GOD'S GRACE

*The
Domestic
Church*

CNS photo/Paul Haring

The importance of matrimony, plus the
how behind convalidating a civil union

By **Violeta Rocha**

Strengthened in her faith. That's how Elvira Linares describes herself.

After 30 years living with her husband, Concepción Avila, Linares recently validated her marriage in the Catholic Church.

She says she is living "a wonderful, beautiful moment for which I will be thankful forever."

Although very close to her Catholic faith, Linares, a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton, was saddened by the fact that she couldn't receive the Eucharist for many years because she and her husband had not received a sacramental marriage through the Church.

"In each Mass, during Communion, I saw everyone going to take Communion and I always thought, 'What about me? When?' and then 'Finally, the day arrived!' After praying so much to God, the day arrived. Because it was God who made it possible for us to get married!" said the native of Guerrero, Mexico.

According to Chris Vaughan, diocesan director of marriage and family life, the Church invites us to start the marriage relationship with the Sacrament of Matrimony. But if for some reason the couple marries only by civil court, "they need to know the importance of centering their marriage in Christ...to be in the grace of God," he said.

"We encourage people to get married in the Church, because of the grace that the Sacrament of Matrimony gives. The deepest way to receive the grace of God is through the sacraments," Vaughan added.

Now that Elvira and Concepción validated their civil union before God, she is happy to have set a good example for her six grandchildren, ranging from four to 22 years old.

Vaughan added that Bishop Michael Olson has been very insistent on the value of marriage in the diocese and he commended the work of the priests in their parishes.

"I think our pastors have helped a lot to make people understand the role of marriage," said Vaughan. "People who come seeking validation are convinced that they can get closer to God through their marriage."

"Bishop Olson wants us to know that marriage is not about celebrating a great party, but a true encounter with a living God, who loves us, who died for us, and who wants to be with us in paradise for the rest of our lives," Vaughan said.

Flor Alvarado, a parishioner at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in White Settlement, said her pastor, Father Manuel Holguin,

is the why and nion

has greatly boosted the importance of marriage in the parish.

“Thanks to God and Father Manuel, many people are now interested in getting married in the Church and participating in our marriage groups.”

Flor and her husband, Jorge Alvarado, have been married for 21 years. As a sponsor couple for the last six years, they accompany and guide couples that validate their marriage in the Church, serving as role models for them.

“It is so beautiful to see them uniting their lives before God. It is never too late to give a good example to your children, living in the grace of God, inviting Him into your marriage and family,” she said.

Jason and Ines Roach married in the Church 11 years ago, and since the first few years of their marriage, have been a sponsor couple at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington.

They have three children and feel “called to help others to fulfill the necessary requirements for the Sacrament of Matrimony...the diocese is making great efforts to prepare couples for their marriage and we want to make sure that couples know very well what the Church expects from them.” 🇺🇸

STEPS FOR MARRIAGE CONVALIDATION:

First, inquire at your parish office and complete the necessary paperwork. The following programs are offered in English or Spanish at several times during the year.

1. Pre-Marital

Inventory — More than 100 questions about personality, finances, intimacy, faith, abortion, etc. After answers are evaluated, the couple meets with their sponsor couple at their parish to discuss the answers and talk in depth about topics that may need further discussion and/or possible solutions.

2. Theological

Formation — Discussion on marriage, its difficulties, and temptations. The program, “Today, Tomorrow, Forever,” can be taken in one day or in two different afternoons.

3. Natural Family

Planning — This class includes four sessions in which the couple learns the Church’s teachings on artificial contraception and how to use and interpret charts for natural family planning.

VERY AFFORDABLE GOLDEN WORLD TOURS

+++++

-ITALY AFFORDABLE SPECIAL-11/1-11/9/17 - \$1,999
Turin, Venice, Padua, Florence, Assisi, Rome- 4 Basilicas+Papal Audience

-7 DAY NEW YEAR CRUISE-incl.air-12/29-1/5-fm \$1,899

*****NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAMS - 2018*****

-SPRINGBREAK-MARCH 9-18, 2018 - visit 4 countries:
-Germany (Bavaria), Austria, Switzerland and Italy- **\$2,399**

-SOUTH AFRICA SAFARI + Cape Town- 4/26-5/9 - **\$3,299**

-SCOTLAND AND IRELAND - 6/25-7/5 - **\$2,599**

-7 DAY CRUISE-ALASKA- incl. air - 9/16-9/23 fm **\$1,599**

-HOLYLAND AND JORDAN- 10/8 -10/18 - **\$2,699**
Petra, Mt. Nebo Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Cana, Nazareth, Capernaum, Galilee.

-MEDJUGORJE, ITALY+ Papal Aud. 10/8-10/18 **-\$2,099**

-EASTERN EUROPE - 10/22/10/31 - Prague, Auschwitz, Krakow (Poland), Slovenia, Budapest, end Vienna **-\$2,399**

-AMAZING THAILAND -11/09 - 11/20 - **\$2,499**
Bangkok, Lampang, Chiang Mai/ Elephants, Ancient Siam & River Kwai..

Prices per person dbl. occ. incl. DFW air/taxes, escorted, first class hotels, breakfast/dinner. **CALL MICHAEL/SUE** for all terms, conditions, registration, minimum numbers, etc. **-TEL: 972-934-9635 Email: michael.menof@cnhintl.com**

To Report Misconduct

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct by anyone who serves the Church, you may:

- Call the victim assistance coordinator at (817) 602-5119.
- Or call the Victim Assistance Hotline (817) 945-9345 and leave a message.

To Report Abuse

Call the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (Child Protective Services) at (800) 252-5400.

Casa Brendan and Casa II, Inc. provides Affordable Independent Living for Seniors (62+)

Amenities for Casa Brendan and Casa II, Inc.

Efficiencies and One Bedroom Apartments
Income Based Rent
Tile Throughout
Utility Allowances
Cable Ready – Discounted
Emergency Pull Cord Systems
Individual Central Heating and Air Conditioning
24 hour emergency maintenance
Night and Weekend Courtesy Patrol

Facilities include:

Community Room
Library
Landscaped grounds
Wheelchair Accessible Units
2 Laundry Facilities
Domestic Pet Friendly (one per unit under 25 lbs)



Call For Details!

Casa Brendan/Casa II, Inc. Apartments

1300 Hyman St.
Stephenville, Texas 76401
254-965-6964
Relay Texas TTY line – 711

Housing Properties are managed for HUD by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc. www.ccdofw.org



ARDENT YET GENTLE

Shepherds who follow the instructions of our Lord

The Catholic Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, offers priests the option for celebrating votive Masses on days where another specific Mass (i.e., the feast of an Apostle) is designated.

A couple that I often take advantage of celebrating, as you might imagine, are the Mass for Vocations to Holy Orders and the Mass for Religious Vocations. I have a particular love for the Collect (opening prayer) for the Vocation to Holy Orders Mass, because we pray for “ardent yet gentle heralds of the Gospel.”

Ardent yet gentle. We ask prayers for men who are passionate, fervent, vigorous, courageous, and enthusiastic proclaimers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Men who are on fire for spreading the “good news of great joy” (*Luke 2:10*) to all people.

At the same time, we pray for gentle heralds. With the same intensity, priests are men who share the Gospel message with pastoral sensitivity to meet the Christian faithful where they are on the journey with Jesus Christ. Gentle, tender, caring, loving heralds. Shepherds who follow the instructions of our Lord to St. Peter: “Feed my lambs ... Tend my sheep ... Feed my sheep” (*John 21:15-17*).

Praying in this specific manner allows us to “ask the Master of the Harvest” (*Luke 10:2*) to make his voice heard as He calls young men to the priesthood. We are praying for an outpouring of love, for the call to priesthood is an act of God’s grace working in the lives of all people.

This is precisely a major point of Bishop Michael Olson’s homily at the ordination Mass of Father Stephen



Hauck and Father John Martin last May. Bishop stated, “Your priestly vocation is an act of Christ’s generous love for you and for His people, the Church.” The call is for the particular man, but the act of the call is for all people. Therefore, a man says “yes” to God’s call for himself and for the souls to whom he will be sent as an ardent yet gentle herald.

When one prays for vocations to the priesthood, the prayer is for the entire Christian faithful. It is a prayer of generosity recognized in three parts: the generosity of God to call a man to priesthood; the generosity of the man to “lay down his life for his friends” (*John 15:13*); and the generosity of the people to pray for the care of each other through the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Hearing and answering the call are the first steps toward priesthood. The truest test comes in perseverance in formation and in commitment to ministry. In the same homily, Bishop

Olson reminded us perseverance in our vocation and our discernment requires simplicity of heart so that we can say, “‘yes’ when we mean ‘yes,’ and say ‘no’ when we mean ‘no,’ for as Christ teaches us, “anything more is from the evil one” (*Matthew 5:37*).

The ardent herald is firm in his proclamation. His “yes” for the Gospel is certain. This is only possible for a man who has Christ as the center of his life. From this supernatural relationship, the man lives his commitment to faithful care of souls with a generous heart.

May the Lord send us ardent yet gentle heralds to proclaim his Word. 🇺🇸



Ordained to the priesthood in 2013, Father James Wilcox serves as the campus chaplain for Texas Christian University and the Director of Vocations for the diocese.

QUELLING THE FLAMES OF HATRED

with courage, wisdom, and love

In the days following the horrific events in Charlottesville, Virginia, I found myself wanting to post some kind of response on social media but I was afraid whatever I said would be either too incendiary or too cliché.

Sadly, I have felt this way a lot lately with the news out of Venezuela and North Korea, as well as the ongoing wars in the Middle East and the seemingly daily acts of terrorism in cities throughout the world.

So, what are we to do when the problem is so much bigger than we are? What, if anything, can we do to impact the hate, bigotry, violence, racism, terrorism, death, fear, and the deep poverty of love that seems to permeate the world around us? What shakes me to my core is much of this is not “over there” with “those other people.” Not only are these beliefs present in people in the USA, but I see many of these ideas espoused on my news feed from friends, people I sit next to at church, and sometime even from relatives.

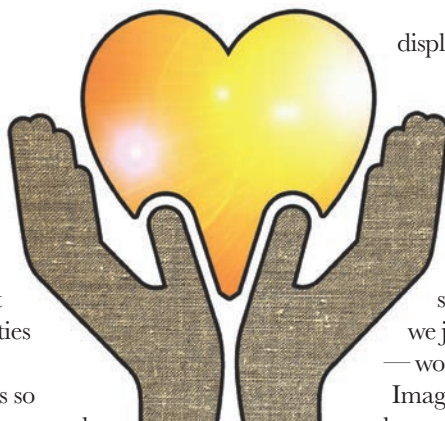
I will admit I could not come up with a quick answer to what I can do in the face of all this hate and fear, so I turned to the Bible. Immediately what came to mind was: “But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you” (*Matthew 5:44*). Clearly, here is one thing I can do and will do! This got me thinking about what else the Scriptures might offer.

The beatitudes sprang to mind, but they offered more conviction than comfort. “Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness” (*Matthew 5:6*). As much as I love this verse, in the wake of current events I had to ask: “Do I really hunger and thirst for righteousness or do I just think it is a great idea?”

As I continued it did not get any better: “Blessed are the peacemakers” (*Matthew 5:9*). Not those who love peace, but those who make peace. Again, I had to ask myself, what am I actually doing to promote peace in the world, in my community, in my parish, in my family, and in my own heart?

Lastly: “Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness” (*Matthew 5:10*). I know I am not ready to be persecuted for righteousness’ sake because I shy away from possibly incendiary posts on Facebook, let alone in face-to-face conversations.

Yet, even though my perusal of Sacred Scripture left me with more questions than answers, I still feel outrage at the racism on



display throughout the country, but I struggle to know how I am called to “throw over the tables.”

A phrase came to mind during all this reflection: Think globally and act locally. Trite as it is true, it is a place to start for all of us. We will not end discrimination or prejudice with a tweet nor will we change a white supremacist’s mind by sharing that perfect article we just read. But we can strive to have everything — word, deed, and thought be motivated by love.

Imagine how your day would be different if every word you spoke was free of the fear of persecution because it is rooted in love for the people to whom you speak. Imagine the impact of your actions if making peace was your main motivation. And imagine the attitude shift you would experience if every thought you had came from the hunger and thirst you have for righteousness — for those you love as well as those with whom you disagree.

While these ideas seem doable, I must caution that even though we speak, act, and think with love and peace, we still have to stand for the truth. When the commandment says “You shall not kill,” the Lord is asking for more than we might think, for included in this command is the demand for us to denounce murderous anger and hatred as immoral (*CCC 2302*).

If we do this, we may lose friends, but we are not required to keep our friends. The prophet Micah sums it up beautifully when he says “You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God” (*Micah 6:8*).

As with many things in the life of faith, what we are called to is simple, but not easy. The first step is to go to God daily in prayer asking for the grace and mercy to be who He needs you to be. Then, lean on the gifts of the Holy Spirit you received in Confirmation and proceed with courage and wisdom. Lastly, lean on the virtues of faith, hope, and love, never forgetting that the greatest of these is love. ✚



Jeff Hedglen is also the founder and primary convener of Camp Fort Worth. For more information on Young Adult Ministry, including Theology on Tap, visit fwyam.org

TELLING THE TRUTH

Are you ashamed of telling the truth of Jesus Christ?

When engaged in conversation it's not out of the ordinary to assume that the discussion would be sensible and truthful.

The last thing we expect to hear is a tale so far-fetched that it makes no logical or moral sense. The irony here is that the basic definition of a conversation is to convey truth. In other words, when engaged in any conversation our natural inclination should be to speak honestly and charitably with a fellow human being and avoid “small talk” which in many instances barely amounts to substantive dialogue (CCC 2467).

Taking this a step further, our Catholic faith is not based on the “small talk” principle of conveying words with no meaning. Our language, demeanor, and behavior are intimately and naturally bound to express genuine truth in a myriad of ways, e.g. the way of Christ (Jn 18:37).

This sounds reasonable until we are put in the position to convey a truth someone does not want to hear or acknowledge, like the Church's teaching on marriage between one man and one woman. And if this scenario does happen, then you're socially placed in the category of being a hypocrite for expressing your morally “uncharitable” views or you're publicly shamed for communicating the Church's teaching on marriage.

THE NATURE OF THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

One of the greatest attributes of the Church is that Christ is its founder (Mt 16:16-19; Jn 21; Acts 2: 2-21). We know and understand that Christ himself



wavebreakmedia/shutterstock.com

communicated by word and deed to St. Peter and the Apostles to carry out the mission of the Church. When we honestly take stock in what the Catholic Church represents and offers, why wouldn't we want to profess the truth of Jesus Christ, proclaim his Gospel, his kerygma to the masses?

The eighth commandment provides us with a very clear blueprint on how to truthfully profess our Catholic faith without fear or shame. It simply asks us to not misrepresent the truth in our relations with others. In other words, it forbids us to put on a false face. We are literally called to bear witness to the truth of Christ and his Church (Jn 1:14). The *Catechism* reminds us that in situations that require witness to the faith, the Christian must profess it without equivocation (CCC 2471).

WITNESSES OF THE GOSPEL

We are called to be witnesses of the Gospel. This means that our conversations should exhibit a Christ-centered character

that is truthful. If the nature of our conversations consisted in lies, then there would be no point to discuss anything with anyone, leaving us with the inability to honestly and openly communicate with one another. The disciple of Christ consents to live in God's truth and with simplicity of life in conformity with the Lord's example (CCC 2470).

Our natural duty is to serve as witnesses of the Gospel — to profess the truth of Jesus Christ in our daily living. The result of this approach is the revelation of truth, beauty, and goodness found in us

as God's children. Let's keep in mind we were not created out of fear or a lie. We were created out of love. And the love God has for us manifested itself even further through his son, Jesus Christ.

There should be no shame in telling the truth with charity and clarity. The grace to speak the truth in love involves a willingness to spiritually die to ourselves and rise with Christ even amid enduring some form of persecution.

Therefore, “do not be ashamed... of testifying to our Lord...but take your share of suffering for the Gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus . . .” (2 Tim 1:8-9). ✝



A frequent author and speaker, Marlon De La Torre writes articles on catechesis, evangelization, and Christian spirituality at knowingisdoing.com

INSURE YOUR MOST PRECIOUS GIFTS



Advantages of Life Insurance for Your Child:

◆ Guaranteed Future Insurability*

In the unfortunate event that your child develops a medical condition, he or she would be eligible to purchase additional insurance through guaranteed purchase options, regardless of health.

◆ Lock in Lower Premiums

Buying a permanent policy on your child allows you to buy more coverage at a much lower cost and keep the same premium for life.

◆ Show the Importance

By having life insurance on your child, you are showing him or her the importance of taking care of loved ones.

◆ Start Them on the Path to Saving

A permanent life insurance policy includes a savings element that builds accessible cash value over time.

◆ Help Plan for the Future

Someday your child is going to go off to college, buy a car, get married and buy a home. All of these will involve some debt. A life insurance policy will help secure a loan with a bank.



Chris Stark, FICF
General Agent
Cell: 979-218-3664
Office: 817-439-9292
chris.stark@kofc.org
www.KofCInsuranceFW.com



Andrew Tice, FIC
Cell: 817-829-1515
andrew.tice@kofc.org



Terry Peffers, FIC
Cell: 817-690-7924
robert.peffers@kofc.org



Bob Hoholick, LUTCF
Cell: 214-455-5256
robert.hoholick@kofc.org



Luis Hernandez
Cell: 817-975-4220
luis.hernandez@kofc.org



Michael Bryant
Cell: 940-282-8074
michael.bryant@kofc.org



Brian DesCamps
Cell: 682-225-2276
brian.descamps@kofc.org



Ben Bindel
Cell: 940-736-3090
ben.bindel@kofc.org



Randy Brock, FSCP
Cell: 940-886-8417
randall.brock@kofc.org



Eddy Patterson
Cell: 817-776-0555
eddy.patterson@kofc.org



This could be you.

LIFE INSURANCE DISABILITY INSURANCE LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

*Guaranteed purchase option rider must be applied and approved at time of issue.

Gen_Child, Exp. 12/31/17

LOVE IN A TIME OF HATE

Couple's story captures courage of French village in WWII

One wintry evening in 1940 the doorbell rang at the home of Magda and Pastor Andre Trocme in the not-yet-famous town of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France. Opening the door, Magda saw a German Jewish woman shivering in the cold. Someone had informed her that the small town's Reformed Church pastor and his wife could help her.

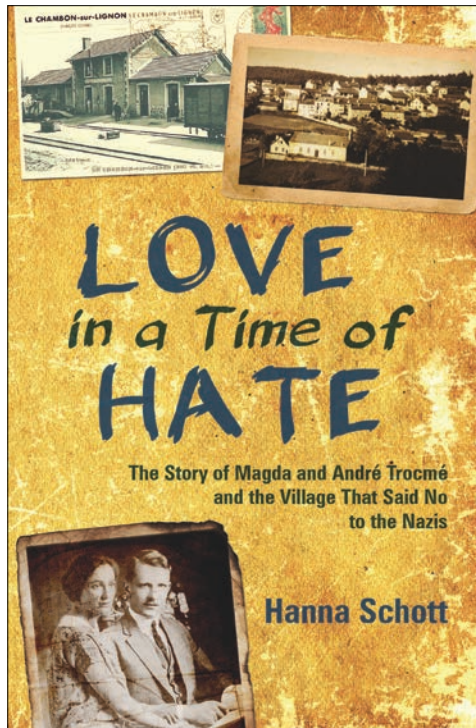
In October 1940 "an order came into effect for all of France ... that all Jews were to be handed over to German officials," writes Hanna Schott, author of *Love in a Time of Hate*. Immediately "Jews from throughout the whole country were in transit," searching "for safe places to stay."

That is what the Trocmes' home, along with homes of nearby villagers and local farmers, would become, and the reason history remembers Le Chambon. It served during World War II as a place of welcome for Jews fleeing the Nazis' murderous persecution.

Love in a Time of Hate tells the story of the Trocmes and others in Le Chambon who courageously and cleverly put their faith into action to hide Jews. Many in Le Chambon accepted it as their responsibility "not only to do good, but also to prevent evil from happening."

The book accompanies the Trocmes from their courtship's first days to the last days of their old age. They married in 1926. Andre came over time to grasp "the extraordinary love and commitment of which Magda was capable," he once wrote.

It appears that the Trocmes' profound integrity and respect for others demanded that they put their faith into action by standing uncompromisingly at the side of



those they welcomed to their home and town.

"We don't know what a Jew is. We only know human beings," Andre, at great risk to himself, boldly informed the provincial governor in 1942.

Andre described in a 1958 letter the underlying conviction that had motivated his actions. In his mid-30s he made "a great discovery," namely that "every other person existed just as (he) did, was just as unique and important as (himself)."

He then knew, he explained, "what love meant: to regard another person as you regard yourself; to actually put yourself into their situation instead of just dreaming that you love them." The "truth of God," he wrote, is "the other: the other

◀ *Love in a Time of Hate: The Story of Magda and Andrew Trocme and the Village That Said No to the Nazis* by Hanna Schott; translated by John D. Roth. Herald Press (Harrisonburg, Virginia, 2017). 269 pp., \$16.99.

human, the Jew, whom one hides."

In this pastor the Reformed Church had not only someone of astonishing commitment, but a pacifist too, whose distaste for war and killing was rooted in convictions that arose in his earliest teen years during World War I.

With close relatives living in Germany, the devastating realities of war disturbed Andre. He wondered what he would do "if someday he encountered his cousin Wilhelm ... wearing the uniform of a German soldier."

The Jews sheltered in Le Chambon during World War II included many children. A number of them resided in the Tante Soly Hotel on the main street. It was a "curious neighborhood," Schott says. Right next door was a house occupied by German soldiers.

A little story in this book recalls a step frequently taken to protect this "neighborhood's" children. Schott writes that "whenever it seemed that a raid was imminent, the Tante Soly innkeeper sent the children out the rear entrance and from there ... into the woods to 'hunt for mushrooms.'"

In the days of World War II, a biblical passage from the Book of Numbers fascinated Andre with its suggestion that a town might serve as a place of refuge, a necessary safe haven (*Chapter 25, Verses 11-15*). This inspired him to hope that Le Chambon could become just such a place. 🇺🇸

From Poland, with love

HE IS: Father Bartomiej Jasilek, SVD, pastor of Our Mother of Mercy Parish, Fort Worth.

He was ordained May 9, 2009, in Poland as a Divine Word Missionary. He also served at two predominantly African-American churches in Louisiana.

GROWING UP: Fr. Bart, as he is now called, grew up in a small town in wooded northwest Poland with an older brother and three older sisters.

THE CALL: At 22, Fr. Bart was finishing his paramedic studies and helping at his church as an altar server, lector, and youth leader. He wanted to marry and have a big family. After several parishioners told him he should be a priest, he began to consider it. Alone in church looking at the cross, his legs began to wobble, and he felt God might be calling him.

As he was discerning, his associate pastor took him to a bookstore in a larger city in Poland. On the way, they stopped at the Society of the Divine Word seminary and toured the missionary museum. While there, “my heart was beating in a different rhythm. I had a kind of joy and peace in my heart.”

ON FACING OBSTACLES: When his seminarian class neared its last year, Fr. Bart was assigned an extra year of seminary, which left him “almost broken inside.” After he completed it, he “recognized it was a year of special blessing for me from God,” allowing him to be near his mother during her terminal illness. “Obstacles could be God’s way of helping us with many things. God’s plan is to prepare us for something. We have to be strengthened.”

BEST THING ABOUT BEING A PRIEST: “I am the priest who loves the confessional,” and on one Divine Mercy Sunday he spent six hours straight hearing confessions. “It’s a beautiful sacrament of healing and grace” that purifies the heart and strengthens the soul. He compared it to washing your hands before a meal. “Even if the food is good, if I have poison on my hands, it can hurt me. The Holy Eucharist is good heavenly food that can nourish us.”



Father Bartomiej Jasilek, SVD

MEANINGFUL MOMENT: Fr. Bart was selected to serve as an altar server when his society’s founder and two missionaries were canonized. In 2003, Pope John Paul II celebrated the Mass when Parkinson’s had weakened his body. At the consecration, the pope’s arm trembled with the effort of elevating the host, and he was only able to raise it slightly. Fr. Bart watched as the pope then bowed his head below the host.

“Even in his human weakness, he found a way to show the whole world Jesus is number one.” He thinks of it at every consecration — “it made a huge mark in my mind, in my heart, in my soul.”

A MEMORABLE FIRST: After being ordained a transitional deacon, the first funeral he assisted with was his mother’s. Leading the procession from the church to the cemetery, Fr. Bart felt “a beautiful peace in my heart.”

ON HISTORICALLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN PARISHES: When he listens to the stories of African-American Catholics who lived through segregation, Fr. Bart admires that they remained Catholic although they were sometimes excluded from the sacraments or the priesthood by other Catholics. He wants Our Mother of Mercy to make all feel welcome while retaining its African-American legacy.

THE TAKEAWAY: “God exists. God is love. God is asking us to share God’s love with others. If people know Jesus and God’s love, they will come [to church] because nothing can replace it.” 🇺🇸

Interview by Susan Moses

Official Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth

BY MOST REV. MICHAEL F.
OLSON, STD, MA

REV. ARIEL MUNOZ SANCHEZ, CORC

New to the Diocese of Fort Worth, has been appointed **Parochial Vicar** of St. Matthew Parish in Arlington, effective Aug. 1, 2017.

REV. ALEXANDER AMBROSE, HGN

Without prejudice to his assignment as Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Wichita Falls, has been appointed **Vicar Forane** of the Northwest Deanery, effective Aug. 1, 2017.

REV. BRIJIL LAWRENCE, SAC

Sacramental minister of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Breckenridge and Jesus of Nazareth Parish in Albany, has been appointed **Parochial Administrator** of the same parishes, effective Sept. 1, 2017

REV. JAMES GIGLIOTTI, TOR

Returning to the Diocese of Fort Worth, has been appointed **Pastor** at St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

REV. RICHARD BARANSKI, OFM

In residence at St. Francis Village in Crowley, has been recalled by his religious order community, effective Aug. 1, 2017.

KIM BROWN

No longer serving as Associate Director of Vocations, effective June 30, 2017.

REV. MICHAEL KWAKU BOAHENE

Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Arlington, has been recalled by the Archdiocese of Kumasi, Ghana, effective July 31, 2017.



DIocese OF FORT WORTH

Notice of the Removal of Faculties from Rev. George Foley

July 31, 2017

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH ISSUES THE FOLLOWING:

To all concerned:

After careful investigation of the facts, and after consultation with the Reverend George Foley, having duly notified him of this matter, on July 28, 2017, the Most Reverend Michael F. Olson withdrew and removed from the Reverend George Foley the Faculties of the Diocese of Fort Worth, without prejudice to Canon 976, which were extended to him by the Most Reverend Joseph P. Delaney, on May 21, 2004.

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • (817) 560-3300 • Fax: (817) 244-8839 •
www.fwdioc.org

REV. HECTOR MAGALLON

Parochial Vicar at St. Matthew Parish in Arlington, has been recalled by his diocesan community, effective Aug. 1, 2017.

REV. JOSEPH LIM

Retired/in residence in the Wichita Falls area, has been

granted faculties to serve in the Diocese of Fort Worth, effective July 13, 2017.

REV. TOM STABILE, TOR

Pastor at St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth, has been recalled by his religious order community, effective Sept. 1, 2017.



Photo courtesy of CCFW



◀ “Theresa,” a Padua client, is pictured with CCFW case manager Kimberly Lawrence. Theresa grew up in poverty and, as a homeless mother of two, was determined to break that cycle. Through participation in the Padua Pilot, Theresa is now a college graduate and is working towards opening her own brokerage firm.

Measuring success: the Padua Project

“Five decades. Trillions spent. 100-plus anti-poverty programs. And we’re no better off. Why?”

When Heather Reynolds, president and CEO of Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW), asked this question, she was referring to the expansion of social welfare legislation that began in 1964. In spite of more than \$15 trillion spent on federal programs, more than 48 million people are currently living below the poverty line in the United States.

Reynolds is on a quest to understand and effectively combat a system in which “people are trapped in a cycle of dependency and stigma.”

It is because of this quest that she and the entire CCFW team are committed to the Padua Pilot, which launched in May 2015.

Padua is a model built to measure outcomes, said Reynolds. By partnering with researchers from the University of Notre Dame and the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, CCFW is able to analyze client data and see how intensive case management and connections to community support are changing the lives of the 192 clients currently enrolled.

“Lydia,” a single mother of four children and a victim of domestic violence, was living in a shelter when

she first joined Padua. With the goal of establishing stability in Lydia’s life and thus helping to prevent future crises, Lydia’s case manager worked with her to begin counseling, find housing, obtain a GED, seek a better paying job, and procure reliable transportation. Within 11 months, Lydia had reached these goals and is now enrolled in community college.

Progress in 12 asset areas was measured in a group of 105 clients who, like Lydia, were enrolled in the first year of Padua; significant improvements were measured in the asset areas of clients’ physical, financial, health, and support systems. Reynolds says she expects more exciting news, and many more success stories, as CCFW case workers continue to work intensively with each client.

“We really want to know: What are we doing wrong? What could we do better? What should we do more of? What really works to move people out of poverty for good?” said Reynolds.

“These answers, good or bad, give us the ability not only to improve our services, but to scale and replicate evidence-based solutions. And that is the only type of service we should be providing — something that really works.”

For more information, visit CatholicCharitiesFortWorth.org or call 817-534-0814. 📍

Lighter & Brighter

The **FLOCK** by Jean Denton



COMICS by Tom Gould

John 14:20



Want more Lighter & Brighter?

Check out our Facebook and Twitter for more cartoons.



Your Holy Advocates

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

St. Andrew Kim Teagon



Patron Saint of Korea

Feast: September 20

St. Kim Taegon Andrea, generally referred to as Saint Andrew Kim Taegon in English, was the first Korean-born

Catholic priest. Born into aristocracy, Kim's parents were converts and his father was subsequently martyred for practicing Christianity, a prohibited activity in heavily Confucian Korea. During the Joseon Dynasty, Christianity was suppressed and many Christians were persecuted and executed. Kim was one of several thousand Christians who were executed during this time. In 1846, at the age of 25, he was tortured and beheaded near Seoul on the Han River.

St. John de Brebeuf

Patron Saint of Canada

Feast: October 19



Born in Normandy, France in 1593, he wanted to enter the priesthood from an early age, but his health was so bad there were doubts he could make it. His posting as a missionary to frontier Canada at age 32, however, was a literal god-send. He spent the rest of his life there, and the harsh and hearty climate so agreed with him that the natives, surprised at his endurance, called him Echon, which meant load bearer. His massive size made them think twice about sharing a canoe with him for fear it would sink. St. John was martyred in 1649, was tortured to death by the Iroquois.



DALLAS MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Caminando juntos en la fe | Cùng Đồng Hành Trong Đức Tin

Walking Together in Faith

Presented by the University of Dallas and co-sponsored by the Diocese of Dallas



OCTOBER 19 - 21, 2017

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas - Hall C



Register
by
10/9/17

- **Open to all Catholics**
- from general parishioners to ministry professionals
- **Newly renovated meeting area** with easily accessible session rooms
- **Saint John's Bible will be featured at the liturgical art display**
- first handwritten illuminated bible of its scale in over 500 years!
- **Over 90 Speakers, featuring:**
Fr. Joseph Tetlow, SJ
Fr. Seán Martin
Sr. Johanna Paruch
Brandon Vogt
Coleen Kelly Mast
Donna Beegle

— *Welcoming* —
MOST REV. EDWARD J. BURNS
Bishop of Dallas

ALL CATHOLICS WELCOME!



LARGEST CATHOLIC CONFERENCE IN THE SOUTHWEST



udallas.edu/dmc

Casa, Inc. and Nuestro Hogar, Inc. provides Affordable Independent Living for Seniors (62+)

- Efficiencies, One and Two Bedroom apartments
- Income Based Rent
- Wheelchair accessible apartments
- Emergency pull-cords in bedroom and bathroom
- Grab Bars in bathroom
- Handrails lining hallways
- On-Site Laundry, Library & Computer Access
- Night and weekend security officers
- 24-hour emergency maintenance service
- Pets Welcome (under 20 lbs, one per apartment)
- On-Site Social Service Coordinator



Call For Details!

Casa, Inc.
3201 Sondra Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
817-332-7276
Relay Texas TTY line – 711

Nuestro Hogar, Inc.
709 Magnolia Street
Arlington, Texas 76012
817-261-0608
Relay Texas TTY line – 711

Housing Properties are managed for HUD by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc.

www.ccdofw.org



Saint Francis Village A Gated Community on the shores of Lake Benbrook

Come share our little bit of heaven

***A Strong Catholic Community With Independent Living**

*** Daily Mass**

***Activities, crafts and hobbies**

**4070 St. Francis Village Rd.
Crowley, Tx 76036
Phone 817-292-5786**

Visit our village or
visit our websites @



www.saintfrancisvillage.com
www.stfrancisvillagecatholicchapel.com

Ad Sponsored by
St. Francis Village Catholic Chapel Parish



Intercalando la fe, la razón y la dignidad humana dentro del campo de la inmigración

La inmigración se ha convertido en un tema divisivo en Texas. Pero no debería ser. Siendo el segundo estado más grande del país, con más de 26 millones de residentes, somos una tierra de inmigrantes, no importa si nuestra familia inmigró a Texas en el 1836 o en el 2017.

En gran parte, la Iglesia Católica de Texas y la Diócesis Católica de Fort Worth en el norte de Texas han vivido la fe que nos dio Jesucristo al dar la bienvenida al extranjero y al necesitado en nuestro medio. De hecho, desde 1528 la Iglesia Católica ha sido parte de la historia de Texas, proporcionando cuidado pastoral a las comunidades que se establecieron a través de los siglos.

Como pastor de casi 900,000 católicos en el norte de Texas, estoy obligado a oponerme a la fuerte actitud anti-inmigrante que abunda hoy en día. Más aún, aconsejo a la gente de nuestra diócesis sopesar la necesidad de la seguridad de nuestra nación con el llamado del Evangelio de recibir bien e integrar al necesitado y al oprimido. Porque al servir a estos “los más pequeños entre nosotros”—el inmigrante, el migrante, el refugiado—servimos y encontramos a nuestro Señor. (*San Mateo 25:34-46*). Los católicos deberían considerar cómo su retórica manifiesta el carácter de sus almas—enojo, temor, egoísmo, prejuicio.

Cuando yo hablo sobre inmigración, algunos responden que yo “debería dejar de lado la política y dedicarme a los asuntos espirituales”. Sin embargo, la Biblia claramente nos dice, “Debes tratar al extranjero que reside con ustedes como a un nativo más, y lo amarás como a ti mismo, pues también ustedes fueron extranjeros en Egipto” (*Levítico 19:34*).

Nuestra larga historia de enseñanza eclesial, las encíclicas papales, las declaraciones y cartas pastorales de los obispos y la Escritura del Nuevo y del Antiguo Testamento han reforzado consistentemente nuestra obligación de tratar al extranjero como trataríamos a Nuestro Señor mismo. Los obispos de los Estados Unidos y los de México reconocen los derechos de las naciones y de los inmigrantes en su carta pastoral, “Juntos en el Camino de la Esperanza Ya No Somos Extranjeros”

- La gente tiene el derecho de encontrar oportunidades en su patria
- La gente tiene el derecho de migrar para sostenerse a sí misma y a sus familias
- Las naciones soberanas tienen el derecho de controlar sus fronteras
- A los refugiados y a los que buscan asilo se les debería otorgar protección
- La dignidad humana y los derechos de los migrantes indocumentados deberían ser respetados

El resultado final es éste: Al mismo tiempo que la Iglesia reconoce la necesidad de que una nación imponga límites migratorios razonables, también aboga para que las naciones nunca violen la dignidad humana de los migrantes indocumentados, o pisoteen sus derechos humanos básicos. Debemos, por lo tanto, usar el lente de la fe para evaluar los asuntos migratorios actuales.

SB4, LOS MUROS FRONTERIZOS Y EL DESCUIDO DE LA DIGNIDAD HUMANA

Durante los últimos meses, mis hermanos obispos y yo hemos expresado nuestra desaprobación a la ley 4 del Senado porque no cumple con los tres principios importantes que van de la mano con la enseñanza social de la Iglesia.

ORIENTADO: Las leyes con respecto al encarcelamiento y la deportación deberían orientarse hacia aquéllos que representan un peligro para la sociedad. Al aplicar estas leyes se debe asegurar que no se limiten los derechos de grandes grupos de personas inocentes.

Sí, todos debemos obedecer las leyes de nuestro país y estado. Pero no todos los inmigrantes indocumentados son criminales, como lo implica la actual actitud anti-inmigrante. Muchos emprenden la peligrosa caminata hacia aquí para escapar de la pobreza, violencia, persecución o corrupción gubernamental.

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 46



Una familia se reúne con un abogado de inmigración durante un taller en Dallas. El taller permitió a las familias llenar formularios indicando quiénes serían los representantes legales de sus hijos si sus padres fueran deportados. (Foto NTC/Ben Torres)

VER CON EL CORAZÓN DE **JESÚS**

Por Susan Moses y Juan Guajardo

No hay duda de que estamos viviendo en tiempos turbulentos.

Desde el reasentamiento de los refugiados y las prohibiciones de viajar hasta los muros fronterizos, los Soñadores y las leyes de inmigración, por cada respuesta compasiva, tal parece que hay una reacción igual de división, temor, malentendido e ira, incluso entre los católicos.

Como tal, North Texas Catholic está ofreciendo una perspectiva panorámica a través del lente de nuestra Iglesia, el Papa Francisco y nuestros Obispos, que están unidos al pedir una respuesta amable y justa para los “más pequeños entre nosotros”.

ENTENDER Y RESPONDER A LA LEY SB 4

La ley SB 4, que fue sancionada por el Gobernador Greg Abbott el 7 de mayo, cambia el panorama de las leyes de inmigración en Texas al castigar a las autoridades locales o a los funcionarios municipales que no cumplen con las peticiones federales de inmigración (órdenes de detención) para mantener detenidos a los reclusos no ciudadanos hasta su deportación.

El castigo por no honrar una orden de detención varía desde la negación de fondos estatales hasta sanciones civiles y criminales, multas de hasta \$25,000 por violación, ser removido de su cargo público y ser encarcelado.

Además, la ley permite a los oficiales preguntar sobre el estatus migratorio de una persona en cualquier momento, no sólo cuando alguien ha sido arrestado.

Actualmente, la ley SB 4 es objeto de una demanda que haya sido radicada por varias ciudades y condados de Texas, en la que se alega que dicha ley viola la 5^a, 10^a y 14^a enmiendas de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos.

Mientras tanto, los obispos de Texas se han opuesto a la ley SB 4 en repetidas ocasiones debido a la forma

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 47

OBISPO OLSON

De LA PÁGINA 44

Muchos son honorables y buenos miembros de nuestra comunidad, son voluntarios, sobresalen en nuestras escuelas y sirven en nuestras iglesias.

Esta ley contra las ciudades santuario, en particular, hace daño al bien común porque motiva una actitud de sospecha acerca de la situación legal de todos los inmigrantes.

PROPORCIONAL: La aplicación de las leyes de inmigración no debería imponer fuerza ni sanciones excesivas. Los agentes de inmigración y los de la patrulla fronteriza deberían recibir entrenamiento intensivo acerca del apropiado uso de la fuerza y tácticas para emplearla.

Hacer cumplir la ley no debería forzar a los migrantes a arriesgar sus vidas, como trágicamente vimos en San Antonio hace unas semanas—cuando 10 personas murieron por el extremo calor y deshidratación al estar encerrados en un tráiler que era parte de una operación de contrabando. Muchos de los migrantes eran de México y Guatemala. Estos hombres, mujeres y niños, desesperados por alcanzar una vida mejor, corrieron el gran riesgo de viajar por lo menos 150 millas en el interior del sofocante tráiler.

Aún más, leyes como la SB 4, ponen sobre los oficiales de la policía local el peso de verificar el estado legal de cada persona. Esta carga complica la ya estresante responsabilidad de los oficiales que sirven y protegen a nuestras comunidades. Esta parte de la ley también está generando miedo y desconfianza entre los miembros de las comunidades inmigrantes locales.

HUMANITARIO: En la aplicación de cualquier ley, la dignidad y los derechos de la persona deberían ser protegidos y respetados.

Como mi hermano el Obispo Joe Vázquez de Austin lo dijo, “las familias no deberían ser divididas y deberían recibir consideración especial. Los inmigrantes indocumentados no deberían ser detenidos por largos períodos o ser mezclados con delincuentes violentos. Los que solicitan asilo deberían recibir la evaluación apropiada por árbitros calificados. Los niños deberían ser acomodados dentro de un contexto de bienestar infantil”.

No debemos engañarnos pensando que la SB 4, el muro fronterizo, u otras medidas anti-inmigrantes de algún modo van a resolver los complicados problemas de nuestro sistema migratorio—problemas que perjudican a las

familias, niños, y empobrecen a nuestra comunidad en general. Debemos continuar abogando por leyes de inmigración más justas e integrales, que incluyan la reunificación de familias y se creen caminos más justos para la ciudadanía

SER UNA IGLESIA Y COMUNIDAD ACOGEDORA

La Iglesia Católica de Texas y la del norte de Texas, en particular, debe continuar nuestra tradición basada en la fe de recibir bien a los inmigrantes y refugiados. Tal como la Iglesia recibió a los Europeos en los 1800s, continuamos recibiendo niños solos y familias de Centroamérica que solicitan asilo; cubanos que llegan a Texas buscando ser liberados del comunismo; e inmigrantes especiales—incluyendo cristianos de Irak, Siria y Afganistán—que huyen del terrorismo, así como a las víctimas del tráfico humano y los sobrevivientes de tortura.

Estamos llamados, más que nunca, a evitar la división y el miedo y, en cambio, a responder con la misma compasión que Cristo nos tiene.

Llamo a cada uno de nosotros a orar por la fortaleza para vivir nuestra fe recibiendo bien al inmigrante y al refugiado. Y llamo a cada uno de nosotros a apoyar una significativa reforma migratoria.

Que Dios los bendiga. ✝



+ Michael J. Olson

OBISPO OLSON SOBRE CÓMO SER UNA COMUNIDAD ACOGEDORA

- Invitar al inmigrante, refugiado o migrante entre nosotros a acercarse a su comunidad parroquial; darles oportunidades de servicio y liderazgo. Acoger pronto a los recién llegados.
- Dirigir a los inmigrantes y migrantes a los servicios sociales correspondientes. Animar a las amistades o familias migrantes que conozcan a que soliciten la ciudadanía o estatus legal.
- Oír sus historias y compartir las suyas con ellos porque las barreras entre las culturas las rompemos al encontrarnos, conocernos y comunicarnos.
- Proteger sus derechos y dignidad humana en la esfera política y pública hablando en apoyo de una reforma migratoria humanitaria e integral.
- Orar por que terminen las causas fundamentales de la migración: pobreza, persecución, corrupción. Orar por un espíritu acogedor y comprensivo.
- Estudiar la realidad sobre la inmigración y los refugiados.

DE LA PÁGINA 45

en que la ley deja a un lado la llamada de Cristo para acoger al extranjero y ofrecer ayuda y esperanza a los oprimidos y necesitados.

El obispo Olson expresó su preocupación y decepción por esta ley, diciendo que la legislación podría “hacer un gran daño al bien común porque fomenta una actitud de sospecha sobre el estatus legal de todos los inmigrantes”.

Más bien, dijo, “las medidas de cumplimiento de la ley deben tener como objetivo enfocarse en los criminales peligrosos para su encarcelamiento y deportación”.

Agregó que esta ley no resuelve los “complicados problemas de nuestro sistema de inmigración”. Los obispos de Texas declaran que para hacer eso las políticas deben abordar primero las causas de la huida de un país de origen y reformar el proceso de admisión de los inmigrantes que está sumamente gravado.

Hablando en nombre de todos los obispos, el Obispo de Austin, Reverendísimo Joe Vásquez, le dijo al Senado de Texas el 2 de febrero que la Iglesia “no aprueba ni fomenta la inmigración ilegal porque no es buena para la sociedad ni para el migrante, que tiene que vivir con miedo y en las sombras”.

No obstante, afirmó que las leyes deben “respetar los derechos y la dignidad que nuestro Creador ha dado a cada persona”.

Margarita Morton, feligrés de la Catedral de San Patricio y abogada de inmigración en Fort Worth, dijo que, aunque

la ley entra en vigor el 4 de septiembre, ya ha causado mucha incertidumbre y miedo en la comunidad de inmigrantes. “He escuchado de varios clientes que sus vecinos están considerando mudarse debido al miedo y la incertidumbre de lo que les pasará a sus seres queridos si se quedaran en este país”.

A pesar de que la ley prohíbe el perfil racial y la discriminación, Morton y otros expertos -incluyendo a la policía- han expresado que los inmigrantes se sentirán con desconfianza hacia las autoridades y “más reacios a presentarse ante ellos para reportar un crimen”.

En un artículo reciente, el Arzobispo de San Antonio, Gustavo García-Siller y el Obispo de Brownsville, Daniel Flores, dijeron que al darle a la policía estatal y local el poder de preguntar sobre el estatus de inmigración en cualquier momento, incluso en las paradas de tráfico rutinarias, harán que la gente tenga “un miedo terrible” e “inmediatamente se preocupen por sus hijos y sobre su propia seguridad en caso de que fueran deportados”.

“Es esta incertidumbre y posible pánico en el momento del interrogatorio lo que genera miedo y perjudica el tejido de la comunidad” añadieron ellos.

¿PODRÁ RESOLVER LOS PROBLEMAS UN MURO FRONTERIZO?

El Presidente Trump hizo la promesa de construir un muro

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 48

Blanca Hernández Rivera, 23, ora en un centro de ayuda para inmigrantes deportados en Nogales, México. Hernández fue repatriada a México después de ser capturada por los agentes de aduanas y la patrulla fronteriza de Estados Unidos mientras intentaba entrar a E.E.U.U. indocumentada para reunirse con su hija.



Foto CNS/David Maung

DE LA PÁGINA 47

en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México durante su campaña y el presupuesto que propuso para el año fiscal del 2018 incluye \$1,600 millones de dólares para la construcción de 74 millas de muro fronterizo. Se estima que, de un total de aproximadamente 1,900 millas de la frontera entre los Estados Unidos y México, 650 millas ya tienen un muro.

“La construcción de dicho muro sólo hará que los migrantes, especialmente las mujeres y los niños vulnerables, sean más susceptibles a los traficantes y los contrabandistas. Además, la construcción de esa pared desestabiliza las muchas comunidades vibrantes y bien interconectadas que viven pacíficamente a lo largo de la frontera”, dijo el Presidente del Comité de Migración de los Obispos de los Estados Unidos, Mons. Joe Vásquez, Obispo de Austin.

Otros obispos de la frontera estuvieron de acuerdo. “Si bien los países tienen el deber de garantizar que la inmigración sea ordenada y segura, esta responsabilidad nunca puede servir como pretexto para construir muros y cerrar la puerta a los migrantes y refugiados”, dijo el Obispo Mark Seitz de El Paso.

“LOS SOÑADORES” ENFRENTAN INCERTIDUMBRE Y MENSAJES CONTRADICTORIOS

“Los jóvenes indocumentados traídos a los Estados Unidos por sus padres contribuyen a la sociedad americana y merecen protecciones continuas”, dijeron los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos este verano.

“Estos jóvenes entraron a los Estados Unidos cuando eran niños y éste es el único hogar que conocen”. Los jóvenes que califican para el programa son “contribuyentes de nuestra economía, veteranos de nuestro ejército, destacados académicos en nuestras universidades y líderes en nuestras parroquias”, agregó el Obispo Joe Vásquez.

La política de Acción Diferida para la Llegada de los Niños (DACA, por siglas en inglés) se implementó en el 2012 mediante una polémica orden ejecutiva. Más de 750,000 jóvenes (“Los Soñadores”) obtuvieron una suspensión temporal de la deportación y la oportunidad de obtener permisos de trabajo por dos años.

El Presidente Trump terminó en junio un programa similar que permitía a los padres indocumentados de niños americanos solicitar permisos de trabajo y residencia por tres años y emitió mensajes contradictorios sobre el futuro de DACA. Diez gobiernos estatales, incluyendo Texas, amenazan con radicar una demanda, a menos que el programa de DACA sea rescindido antes del 5 de septiembre.

El obispo Vásquez dijo que el programa DACA no es una solución permanente y pidió al Congreso encontrar una solución legislativa para estos jóvenes “tan pronto como sea posible”. A pesar de que su futuro es incierto, el Obispo Vásquez dijo a los Soñadores y a sus familias: “la Iglesia Católica está en solidaridad con ustedes”.



Foto CNS/Dennis Sadowski

Leo Sandoval, 14 años, y su hermana Flor Sandoval, de 16 años, preparan almuerzo en casa de su familia en Modesto, California. Ambos expresaron preocupación de que sus padres, que no están legalmente autorizados a estar en E.E.U.U. pueden ser detenidos y deportados con poca antelación.

NO PIERDAN SU HUMANIDAD

En marzo, en un punto culminante del debate sobre la inmigración y los refugiados, los obispos de los Estados Unidos alentaron a los católicos americanos a acompañar a los migrantes y refugiados que buscan una vida mejor en los Estados Unidos.

En su reflexión pastoral llamaron a los católicos a mirar más allá de la política y a “no perder de vista el hecho de que detrás de cada política está la historia de una persona en busca de una vida mejor. Pueden ser una familia de inmigrantes o refugiados sacrificándose para que sus hijos tengan un futuro mejor”.

Dejaron claro que es necesario salvaguardar al país a través de las leyes de inmigración, pero esto debe hacerse de una manera que “no nos haga perder nuestra humanidad”.

Como tal, exhortaron a los católicos a que pidan a los legisladores que arreglen el sistema de inmigración de una manera que “proteja nuestra seguridad” y que, al mismo tiempo, permita oportunidades humanas y generosas para la migración legal. 🇺🇸

PARA EL BIEN COMÚN

La Campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana asiste a los ministerios

Por Violeta Rocha

“Puedes imaginar nuestra Iglesia sin sacerdotes? Puedes imaginar nuestra Iglesia sin diáconos?”, son las preguntas que hace Renée Underwood, Directora Asociada de la Fundación de Avance, oficina a cargo de la Campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana.

Ella explicó que, gracias a los fondos que se recaudan a través de esta campaña, se apoyan una enorme cantidad de ministerios como la educación de seminaristas, así como la formación e instrucción continua para los diáconos permanentes.

Además de las vocaciones, las donaciones apoyan a las escuelas católicas, Caridades Católicas (a la que ahora se integran los ministerios de Pro-Vida), el ministerio de las cárceles y prisiones en 28 condados, los ministerios universitarios, el programa de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar (el año pasado, el Tribunal de Matrimonios procesó 559 casos sin costo alguno para las parejas), iglesias rurales y sus escuelas.

El 30 de junio, fecha en que anualmente se cierra la campaña, se había logrado recaudar \$3,020,167. La meta es de \$3.3 millones para esta nueva campaña del 2017-2018, que “comienza ya, para que la gente haga su compromiso en septiembre y se reciben sus donaciones durante todo el año, hasta que se cierra nuevamente en 30 de junio de 2018”, compartió Underwood.

Además de vía correo y vía electrónica, este año por primera vez se podrá donar a través de su teléfono celular — idea que nació del Padre José Gildardo Álvarez Abonce, párroco de la iglesia Inmaculado Corazón de María de Fort Worth.

“Hemos sido bendecidos con muchos feligreses realmente generosos que han donado por muchos años”, señaló Underwood, agregando que “es nuestra oportunidad de compartir nuestras bendiciones con toda la Iglesia...confío en que se logrará la nueva meta”.

La parroquia de San Pedro el Apóstol de Fort Worth, da muestra de esta generosidad, señala Underwood, siendo ejemplo de unidad parroquial al rebasar por un 24 por ciento de la meta



El año pasado el 14% de los fondos recaudados en la Campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana fueron dedicados para apoyar las escuelas católicas de la Diócesis. (Foto NTC/Juan Guajardo)

del 2016-2017, llegando a \$43,853.54, cuando la meta era \$35,385.00

“La comunidad siempre ha sido generosa, pero la feligresía ha crecido, y eso ayudó ...no somos una parroquia con riquezas, pero apoyamos a nuestro Obispo”, señala

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 52

PARA EL BIEN COMÚN

La Campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana asiste a los ministerios

Por Violeta Rocha

“Puedes imaginar nuestra Iglesia sin sacerdotes? Puedes imaginar nuestra Iglesia sin diáconos?”, son las preguntas que hace Renée Underwood, Directora Asociada de la Fundación de Avance, oficina a cargo de la Campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana.

Ella explicó que, gracias a los fondos que se recaudan a través de esta campaña, se apoyan una enorme cantidad de ministerios como la educación de seminaristas, así como la formación e instrucción continua para los diáconos permanentes.

Además de las vocaciones, las donaciones apoyan a las escuelas católicas, Caridades Católicas (a la que ahora se integran los ministerios de Pro-Vida), el ministerio de las cárceles y prisiones en 28 condados, los ministerios universitarios, el programa de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar (el año pasado, el Tribunal de Matrimonios procesó 559 casos sin costo alguno para las parejas), iglesias rurales y sus escuelas.

El 30 de junio, fecha en que anualmente se cierra la campaña, se había logrado recaudar \$3,020,167. La meta es de \$3.3 millones para esta nueva campaña del 2017-2018, que “comienza ya, para que la gente haga su compromiso en septiembre y se reciben sus donaciones durante todo el año, hasta que se cierra nuevamente en 30 de junio de 2018”, compartió Underwood.

Además de vía correo y vía electrónica, este año por primera vez se podrá donar a través de su teléfono celular — idea que nació del Padre José Gildardo Álvarez Abonce, párroco de la iglesia Inmaculado Corazón de María de Fort Worth.

“Hemos sido bendecidos con muchos feligreses realmente generosos que han donado por muchos años”, señaló Underwood, agregando que “es nuestra oportunidad de compartir nuestras bendiciones con toda la Iglesia...confío en que se logrará la nueva meta”.

La parroquia de San Pedro el Apóstol de Fort Worth, da muestra de esta generosidad, señala Underwood, siendo ejemplo de unidad parroquial al rebasar por un 24 por ciento de la meta



El año pasado el 14% de los fondos recaudados en la Campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana fueron dedicados para apoyar las escuelas católicas de la Diócesis. (Foto NTC/Juan Guajardo)

del 2016-2017, llegando a \$43,853.54, cuando la meta era \$35,385.00

“La comunidad siempre ha sido generosa, pero la feligresía ha crecido, y eso ayudó ...no somos una parroquia con riquezas, pero apoyamos a nuestro Obispo”, señala

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 52

BAJO NUEVOS AUSPICIOS

La reestructuración de los Ministerios de Respeto a la Vida

Por Matthew Smith

Debido al valor, la responsabilidad y la misión de promover la vida en la Iglesia local, tres ministerios que estaban operando bajo la Oficina de Respeto a la Vida de la Diócesis se han trasladado a otros departamentos.

“Mi experiencia anterior en organizaciones corporativas me enseñó que algo tan importante como el ministerio de pro-vida no puede ser hecho por alguien desde una oficina. Tienes que llevarlo a la

gente”, dijo Michael Demma, el Director de Respeto a la Vida que se retiró el pasado 30 de junio.

Los Ministerios Raquel, un ministerio de recuperación y sanación después de un aborto, y el Proyecto Gabriel, que brinda ayuda a las mujeres con embarazos de crisis, fueron trasladados recientemente bajo los auspicios de Caridades Católicas de Fort Worth.

La Directora de los Ministerios Raquel, Betsy Kopor, dijo: “Estoy verdaderamente entusiasmada con el traslado de este ministerio porque sé que el personal de Caridades Católicas está en sintonía con los objetivos de los Ministerios Raquel”.

La señora Kopor comentó que el “traslado de los Ministerios Raquel a Caridades Católicas es algo muy bueno en todos los sentidos”.

“Esto trae más recursos para las personas que lleguen a Caridades Católicas”, dijo Kopor. “Ellos están comprometidos con las parroquias y están orientados hacia el servicio”.

“Caridades Católicas tienen una misión de acabar con la pobreza. Muchas mujeres después de un aborto no toman decisiones, lo que las puede llevar a la pobreza, entre otras cosas. Por eso, creo que este traslado es otra vía para que los Ministerios Raquel ayuden a la gente”.

Angela Walters, Directora del Proyecto Gabriel, señaló también que los recursos adicionales de Caridades Católicas son una gran ventaja.

“Ellos tienen los servicios administrativos que les permite reclutar mejor a los voluntarios y educar a las parroquias”, dijo Walters. “Creo que el traslado del Proyecto Gabriel fortalece la cohesión entre las parroquias, las madres Gabriel y Caridades Católicas para llenar las necesidades espirituales, emocionales y materiales y así asegurar que las madres reciban todos los servicios que necesitan”.

La Juventud Pro-Vida, el tercer ministerio que se trasladó recientemente, es dirigido ahora por la Oficina de la Pastoral Juvenil de la Diócesis, donde el mensaje de

40 días por la vida

Haciendo cunas para el Proyecto Gabriel

La sanación en Ministe

Foto NTC/Ben Torres

Foto NTC/Juan Guajardo

Foto NTC

Respeto a la Vida será impartido y compartido en cada uno de los eventos diocesanos de la juventud.

Aunque debe ser monitoreado, Demma dijo que tiene muy poco temor de que la misión de Respeto a la Vida y los varios ministerios se pierdan o se diluyan a medida que el enfoque se mueva más hacia las parroquias y los voluntarios.

“El concepto de pro-vida y el respeto a la vida es un concepto vivo y muy arraigado en la Diócesis de Fort Worth”, agregó Demma. “Estamos haciendo estos cambios porque somos muy pro-vida y buscamos formas más eficaces de involucrar a la gente y promover la cultura de la vida”.

El ministerio de Respeto a la Vida sigue la guía del Plan Pastoral para las Actividades de Respeto a la Vida de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos al llevar a cabo su misión de avanzar la cultura de la vida para promover la dignidad de cada vida desde su concepción hasta la muerte natural. La oración, la educación, la labor pastoral y la acción cívica proporcionan las herramientas para realizar esa misión.

Los voluntarios dirigieron el apostolado de Respeto a la Vida de la Diócesis hasta el



Michael Demma

2009, cuando el Obispo Kevin Vann lo convirtió en una oficina oficial de la diócesana.

“Estamos profundamente agradecidos a Mike Demma porque éste era un área que necesitaba realmente ser una parte inherente del ministerio de la Iglesia local, pero estaba fragmentada con diferentes personas que lo habían iniciado por

su cuenta”, dijo el Reverendísimo Obispo Michael Olson. “A través del liderazgo, paciencia y determinación de Mike, él fue capaz de ayudarnos a integrar el trabajo de pro-vida en la catequesis de la Diócesis, así como en nuestra evangelización”.

Demma se retiró después de 17 años de haber trabajado con Respeto a la Vida y sirvió como su director los pasados cinco años. Michael Demma trabajó previamente con IBM por 30 años, además de otras incursiones en el mundo corporativo, que según él, contribuyeron a ganar la experiencia que le ayudó inmensamente en la realización de sus deberes de Respeto a la Vida.

Terry Schauf es la nueva directora de los ministerios de Pro-Vida, pero Demma tiene la intención de seguir involucrado de diferentes maneras, incluso como miembro

del comité de Respeto a la Vida de su parroquia, la iglesia St. Elizabeth Ann Seton en Keller.

“Trabajaré con Terry fuera de la oficina diocesana como voluntario”, dijo Demma. “Me voy de la oficina, pero no del trabajo de Respeto a la Vida. Estaré disponible para ir a hablar a las parroquias, enseñar y ayudar a que la oficina de Respeto a la Vida sea reestructurada con mayor eficacia y eficiencia”.

Eso, según Demma, incluye el acercamiento a las mujeres que están considerando el aborto o que han tenido abortos y albergan poca esperanza o ven pocas opciones. Incluye, además, alentar a los feligreses mayores a transmitir su sabiduría y sus valores a las generaciones más jóvenes.

Más que nada, incluye los programas dirigidos a los jóvenes, como Adopción Espiritual, un grupo de voluntarios que, entre otras cosas, enseñan temas sobre la dignidad de la vida en las escuelas católicas de una manera que los estudiantes jóvenes pueden relacionarse.

“Si vamos a detener el aborto en el futuro, tenemos que revertir la cultura de muerte que se ha enseñado a nuestros niños”, comentó Demma. “Tenemos que enseñar a nuestros hijos desde una temprana edad sobre la dignidad de la vida, tenemos que educarlos en que la dignidad de toda vida está enraizada en el hecho de que somos creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios”. 🇺🇸

Ministerios Rachel



Foto NTC/Ben Torres

Marcha Pro-Vida del Norte de Texas



Foto NTC/Juan Guajardo

Campamento de entrenamiento Pro-Vida



Silvia Mendez, gerente de la oficina administrativa de la parroquia, y compartió que la comunidad guarda un cariño especial al Obispo Michael F. Olson, ya que fue pastor de la parroquia del 2006 al 2008.

No sólo por su trabajo de más de una década, sino como feligrés por 39 años, Mendez reconoce la importancia de sentirse “parte de la Iglesia”. La presencia del Padre Manuel Holguin, quien llegó como párroco en julio del año pasado, influyó en la generosa participación de los feligreses en la última campaña.

“El Padre Manuel ha inspirado a mucha gente. Si te identificas con tu pastor, lo vas a apoyar; cuando él habla, la gente responde,” describe Mendez resaltando que al crecer la feligresía requirió una Misa más en español. “Cuando ellos ven cambios y actividades en su parroquia, los feligreses responden mejor, quieren ayudar, se alegran de venir a su Iglesia y quieren ser parte de ella”.

Con 1,108 feligreses registrados, esta comunidad predominantemente hispana, ha rebasado su meta tres años consecutivos, primero en un 11 por ciento, y este año en un 24 por ciento.



Alrededor del 19% de los fondos recaudados en la Campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana del año pasado se dedicaron para apoyar a los diáconos permanentes, incluyendo la educación de los 31 hombres que están actualmente en formación para convertirse en diáconos permanentes. (Foto NTC/Adrean Indolos)

“Trabajamos fuerte y tuvimos una gran respuesta, esperamos continuar así... Cuando hablamos de donar, hablamos de las bendiciones que hemos recibido, la Diócesis nos ha ayudado mucho en la educación,” aseveró Mendez, explicando que la escuela primaria fue remodelada hace cinco años dando grandes

frutos.

El Obispo Olson, expresa en su carta que llegará a todas las parroquias de la Diócesis el 10 de septiembre (fecha del comienzo de la campaña), que “al contribuir al bien común a través de la Campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana, ustedes alcanzan con amor y justicia a los necesitados alrededor de nuestra Diócesis.

“Ustedes ayudan a dar fondos a agencias y ministerios que llegan a los pobres, hambrientos y personas sin hogar. Ustedes proveen programas que ayudan a la formación de fe para niños, estudiantes del colegio, familias y otros”.

El Padre Manuel Holguin, asegura que la comunidad de San Pedro Apóstol es “muy generosa. En verdad muy comprometida en su fe y en su respuesta al caminar de la Iglesia,” dijo agregando que a la hora de motivar a la feligresía a apoyar la Campaña, “el sentido de comunidad y pertenencia es fundamental”.

Además, resaltó el liderazgo del

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 54



“El ‘appeal’ es un compromiso de caminar todos juntos en una misma misión, como Iglesia”

— Padre Manuel Holguin, Párroco
San Pedro el Apóstol, Fort Worth

Silvia Mendez, gerente de la oficina administrativa de la parroquia, y compartió que la comunidad guarda un cariño especial al Obispo Michael F. Olson, ya que fue pastor de la parroquia del 2006 al 2008.

No sólo por su trabajo de más de una década, sino como feligrés por 39 años, Mendez reconoce la importancia de sentirse “parte de la Iglesia”. La presencia del Padre Manuel Holguin, quien llegó como párroco en julio del año pasado, influyó en la generosa participación de los feligreses en la última campaña.

“El Padre Manuel ha inspirado a mucha gente. Si te identificas con tu pastor, lo vas a apoyar; cuando él habla, la gente responde,” describe Mendez resaltando que al crecer la feligresía requirió una Misa más en español. “Cuando ellos ven cambios y actividades en su parroquia, los feligreses responden mejor, quieren ayudar, se alegran de venir a su Iglesia y quieren ser parte de ella”.

Con 1,108 feligreses registrados, esta comunidad predominantemente hispana, ha rebasado su meta tres años consecutivos, primero en un 11 por ciento, y este año en un 24 por ciento.



Alrededor del 19% de los fondos recaudados en la Campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana del año pasado se dedicaron para apoyar a los diáconos permanentes, incluyendo la educación de los 31 hombres que están actualmente en formación para convertirse en diáconos permanentes. (Foto NTC/Adrean Indolos)

“Trabajamos fuerte y tuvimos una gran respuesta, esperamos continuar así... Cuando hablamos de donar, hablamos de las bendiciones que hemos recibido, la Diócesis nos ha ayudado mucho en la educación,” aseveró Mendez, explicando que la escuela primaria fue remodelada hace cinco años dando grandes

frutos.

El Obispo Olson, expresa en su carta que llegará a todas las parroquias de la Diócesis el 10 de septiembre (fecha del comienzo de la campaña), que “al contribuir al bien común a través de la Campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana, ustedes alcanzan con amor y justicia a los necesitados alrededor de nuestra Diócesis.

“Ustedes ayudan a dar fondos a agencias y ministerios que llegan a los pobres, hambrientos y personas sin hogar. Ustedes proveen programas que ayudan a la formación de fe para niños, estudiantes del colegio, familias y otros”.

El Padre Manuel Holguin, asegura que la comunidad de San Pedro Apóstol es “muy generosa. En verdad muy comprometida en su fe y en su respuesta al caminar de la Iglesia,” dijo agregando que a la hora de motivar a la feligresía a apoyar la Campaña, “el sentido de comunidad y pertenencia es fundamental”.

Además, resaltó el liderazgo del

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 54



“El ‘appeal’ es un compromiso de caminar todos juntos en una misma misión, como Iglesia”

— Padre Manuel Holguin, Párroco
San Pedro el Apóstol, Fort Worth

UNIDOS EN LA GRACIA DE DIOS

La importancia del sacramento de matrimonio
y como convalidar una unión civil

Por Violeta Rocha

Fortalecida en su fe. Así se describe Elvira Linares, luego de que, tras 30 años de vivir con su esposo, Concepción Ávila, recientemente convalidaran su matrimonio en la Iglesia Católica, viviendo “un momento maravilloso, hermoso, que nunca dejaré de agradecer”.

Linares, que es feligrés de la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción de Denton y es muy apegada a su fe católica, se entristecía al no poder recibir la Eucaristía, ya que no tenían el Sacramento del Matrimonio.

“En cada Misa, al momento de la comunión veía a todos levantarse a comulgar y pensaba, ‘¿y yo cuándo?’

¿cuándo?’, ¡y se llegó el día! De tanto pedirle a Dios, se llegó. Ha sido obra de Dios el que nos pudiéramos casar”, dijo la originaria de Guerrero, México.

Elvira y Concepción cumplieron todos los requisitos de la Diócesis para poder convalidar su unión ante Dios. “Este programa da la oportunidad a las parejas para que convaliden su matrimonio civil ante la Iglesia”, señala Chris Vaughan, Director de Matrimonios y Vida Familiar de la Diócesis de Fort Worth.

Vaughan asegura que la invitación siempre será seguir lo que nos pide la Iglesia e iniciar la relación conyugal bajo el Sacramento del Matrimonio, pero que, si por alguna razón sólo están casados por la corte civil, “que sepan la importancia

de centrar su matrimonio en Cristo...de estar en la gracia de Dios”.

“Motivamos a la gente a que se case por la Iglesia, por la gracia que da el sacramento. La forma más profunda de obtener la gracia de Dios es a través de los sacramentos”, Vaughan enfatizó.

Elvira dice que está muy contenta de dar un buen ejemplo a sus seis nietos, que se encuentran entre las edades de cuatro a los veintidós años, y se lo agradece a todas las personas que estuvieron involucradas en la convalidación de su matrimonio.

Vaughan agregó que el Obispo Michael Olson ha sido muy insistente en el Sacramento del Matrimonio en toda la Diócesis y ha elogiado la labor de los sacerdotes en sus parroquias.

“Creo que nuestros párrocos han ayudado mucho a hacer entender a la gente el papel del matrimonio”, dijo Vaughan, “las personas que vienen buscando convalidación llegan convencidos de acercarse a Dios con su matrimonio”.

“El Obispo Olson quiere que sepamos que el matrimonio no se trata de una gran fiesta, sino un encuentro con Dios vivo, que nos ama, que murió por nosotros y que quiere estar con nosotros en el paraíso por el resto de nuestras vidas”, concluyó Vaughan.

Flor Alvarado, una feligrés de la Parroquia de San Pedro el Apóstol de White Settlement, dijo que su párroco, el Padre Manuel Holguín, ha impulsado grandemente el matrimonio.

“Gracias a Dios, y al Padre Manuel, mucha gente está interesada en casarse por la Iglesia y de participar en nuestros grupos de matrimonios,” señaló.

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 54

Un sacerdote celebra una Misa de convalidación de matrimonio en 2016 en Chicago. En las diócesis de todo el país las parejas que se casan civilmente toman parte en tales servicios para recibir el Sacramento del Matrimonio y estar en plena comunión con la iglesia. Muchas de las parejas son inmigrantes a los Estados Unidos.



Obispo Olson, y su compromiso con el crecimiento de la Diócesis, “es algo muy bonito, la gente ve la acción de nuestro Obispo y de la Diócesis en acción, en movimiento y ellos responden”, asegura el Padre Holguin, originario de Chihuahua, México.

“El ‘appeal’ es un compromiso de caminar todos juntos en una misma misión, como Iglesia”, señaló. “Creo que la gente debe ver eso, que la gran aportación que ellos hacen a la Apelación Diocesana Anual no solamente beneficia a una parroquia en particular, sino a la misión de la Iglesia en conjunto...la aportación que ellos dan es bien utilizada sobre todo para esos pilares fundamentales de nuestra diócesis”. 📍

LOS NÚMEROS

El año pasado las 91 parroquias y misiones de la Diócesis donaron \$3,020,167 a la campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana. Los fondos recaudados apoyaron varios ministerios, incluyendo:



14% — Caridades Católicas

22% — Las parroquias rurales y necesitadas



6% — Seminaristas

14% — Ministerio universitario



Flor y su esposo, Jorge Alvarado, han estado casados por veintidós años y han servido en su parroquia como ‘sponsor couple’ durante los últimos seis años. Este término en inglés se le da a un matrimonio que acompaña y asesora a las parejas que convalidan su unión matrimonial ante la Iglesia y que, a su vez, sirven como pareja de ejemplo para ellos.

“Es tan bello verlos que van a unir sus vidas ante Dios; nunca es tarde para darle un buen ejemplo a sus hijos y que vivan en la gracia de Dios, invitando a Dios a vivir en su matrimonio y en su familia,” agregó Flor.

Jason e Inés Roach se casaron por la Iglesia hace 11 años y, desde los primeros años de su matrimonio, han sido ‘sponsor couple’ y han ayudado a muchos miembros de su comunidad en la Parroquia de San Vicente de Paúl de Arlington.

Ambos dicen sentirse “llamados a ayudar a otros para cumplir con los requerimientos necesarios para el Sacramento del Matrimonio...la Diócesis realiza grandes esfuerzos para preparar a las parejas para el matrimonio y nosotros queremos asegurarnos de que la pareja conozca muy bien lo que la Iglesia espera de ellos”, señalaron. 📍

LOS PASOS PARA LA CONVALIDACIÓN MATRIMONIAL

- **Inventario Pre-Matrimonial** — Más de 100 preguntas sobre la personalidad, las finanzas, la intimidad, la fe, el aborto, etc. Luego de que se evalúan las respuestas, la pareja se reúne con la pareja que los apadrina (sponsor couple) en su parroquia para discutir a profundidad sus respuestas y las posibles soluciones, de ser necesario.
- **Formación Teológica** — Se habla del Sacramento del Matrimonio, las dificultades y las tentaciones. En inglés el programa se llama “Today, Tomorrow, Forever”, en español, se llama “Jesús te invita al Sacramento del Matrimonio”. Hay la opción de hacerlo en un día completo o en dos tardes distintas. Visite fwdioc.org/jesus-te-invita para más información.
- **Planificación Familiar Natural** — Es un curso de cuatro sesiones en un período de dos meses y medio. La pareja aprende las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre los anticonceptivos artificiales, aprenden a usar e interpretar gráficas y tablas para la planificación familiar natural.

Obispo Olson, y su compromiso con el crecimiento de la Diócesis, “es algo muy bonito, la gente ve la acción de nuestro Obispo y de la Diócesis en acción, en movimiento y ellos responden”, asegura el Padre Holguin, originario de Chihuahua, México.

“El ‘appeal’ es un compromiso de caminar todos juntos en una misma misión, como Iglesia”, señaló. “Creo que la gente debe ver eso, que la gran aportación que ellos hacen a la Apelación Diocesana Anual no solamente beneficia a una parroquia en particular, sino a la misión de la Iglesia en conjunto...la aportación que ellos dan es bien utilizada sobre todo para esos pilares fundamentales de nuestra diócesis”. 🇲🇽

LOS NÚMEROS

El año pasado las 91 parroquias y misiones de la Diócesis donaron \$3,020,167 a la campaña de Apelación Anual Diocesana. Los fondos recaudados apoyaron varios ministerios, incluyendo:



14% — Caridades Católicas

22% — Las parroquias rurales y necesitadas



6% — Seminaristas

14% — Ministerio universitario



Flor y su esposo, Jorge Alvarado, han estado casados por veintidós años y han servido en su parroquia como ‘sponsor couple’ durante los últimos seis años. Este término en inglés se le da a un matrimonio que acompaña y asesora a las parejas que convalidan su unión matrimonial ante la Iglesia y que, a su vez, sirven como pareja de ejemplo para ellos.

“Es tan bello verlos que van a unir sus vidas ante Dios; nunca es tarde para darle un buen ejemplo a sus hijos y que vivan en la gracia de Dios, invitando a Dios a vivir en su matrimonio y en su familia,” agregó Flor.

Jason e Inés Roach se casaron por la Iglesia hace 11 años y, desde los primeros años de su matrimonio, han sido ‘sponsor couple’ y han ayudado a muchos miembros de su comunidad en la Parroquia de San Vicente de Paúl de Arlington.

Ambos dicen sentirse “llamados a ayudar a otros para cumplir con los requerimientos necesarios para el Sacramento del Matrimonio...la Diócesis realiza grandes esfuerzos para preparar a las parejas para el matrimonio y nosotros queremos asegurarnos de que la pareja conozca muy bien lo que la Iglesia espera de ellos”, señalaron. 🇲🇽

LOS PASOS PARA LA CONVALIDACIÓN MATRIMONIAL

- **Inventario Pre-Matrimonial** — Más de 100 preguntas sobre la personalidad, las finanzas, la intimidad, la fe, el aborto, etc. Luego de que se evalúan las respuestas, la pareja se reúne con la pareja que los apadrina (sponsor couple) en su parroquia para discutir a profundidad sus respuestas y las posibles soluciones, de ser necesario.
- **Formación Teológica** — Se habla del Sacramento del Matrimonio, las dificultades y las tentaciones. En inglés el programa se llama “Today, Tomorrow, Forever”, en español, se llama “Jesús te invita al Sacramento del Matrimonio”. Hay la opción de hacerlo en un día completo o en dos tardes distintas. Visite fwdioc.org/jesus-te-invita para más información.
- **Planificación Familiar Natural** — Es un curso de cuatro sesiones en un período de dos meses y medio. La pareja aprende las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre los anticonceptivos artificiales, aprenden a usar interpretar gráficas y tablas para la planificación familiar natural.

From Page 56

Embarrassed, he turned to the promoter and admonished him for booking “a bunch of rappers” for an event geared toward teenagers.

“He looked me straight in the eye and said, ‘I’m not the one rapping. You should be ashamed of yourself.’”

Already compensated for the concert, Zamora and his fellow bandmates performed their rhythmic, gang-oriented songs for the young crowd.

“The crazy thing was the kids already knew our lyrics,” the musician said. “It was a real eye-opener for me. For the first time, I realized what I was doing — polluting young minds and guiding them in the wrong direction.”

After the show, Zamora returned to the VIP room and cried.

“I didn’t know what was happening so I just asked God to lead me and I would follow,” he added.

His decision to leave the world of gangsta rap coincided with another dramatic conversion. Raised in a Catholic home by a devout mother and less than devout father, Zamora fell away from the Church as a teenager when the pull of drugs and partying became more important than Sunday Mass. Eventually the influence of Protestant friends coaxed him even further from the faith.

“I wasn’t just a former Catholic. I was a very anti-Catholic, former Catholic,” he confessed. “I wasn’t very knowledgeable about my faith and began listening to what some ardent anti-Catholics would say about the Church.”

Their arguments, which focused on the usual misconceptions about Mary, purgatory, and the authority of the pope, had a profound impact on the vulnerable apostate. Zamora became zealous about “saving” individuals and his newfound religiosity began influencing his music. But the songwriter soon realized he didn’t have the background needed to write



about his beliefs.

“So I started studying and I couldn’t reconcile what my pastor friends were saying about Catholicism with what I was learning,” he explained. “It didn’t connect and it didn’t make sense. Long story short — I studied my way back to Catholicism.”

During his two-year journey back to the faith, the cradle Catholic listened to apologetics on YouTube and other websites. Reading books by lay theologian Scott Hahn led him to research the writings of early Church Fathers Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp of Smyrna.

As part of his research, Zamora knocked on every church door and spoke with pastors and parishioners.

“And not just the Catholic Church either,” he pointed out. “I would find people who would listen to me, ask them questions and pick their brain. I was hungry. I was searching.”

The process was long and painstaking but the rapper finally returned to his Catholic roots.

“I was coming to conclusions that were very, very Catholic and I couldn’t deny it,” Zamora continued. “I was staring history and Scripture in the face.”

Today, C2six still raps but now his

◀ As part of a Christian rap group called FoundNation, Zamora and company are “always pointing people to Christ. He’s always the headliner.”

lyrics celebrate “the greatest story ever told.” His upbeat hip-hop music focuses on God’s love, redemption, and Gospel truths. Each song is meant to encourage and uplift young people especially those at-risk and marginalized in society.

The now 40-year-old musician performs as a solo artist and with the Catholic hip-hop band FoundNation which is part of El Padrecito Ministries. A Franciscan friar from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Father Maseo Gonzales started the California-based music ministry and provides members with spiritual direction. C2six and FoundNation performed at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, the

Catholic Underground in Manhattan, and various diocesan events around the country.

Suprisingly, Zamora’s fan base from his gangsta rap days remains supportive.

“Even my old venues continued to book me after I started doing Christian rap,” he said matter-of-factly. “Sometimes I’m the only Christian act performing with not-so-Christian acts but that’s cool. It allows me to be that witness. In a place of darkness, I can still be that light in the world.”

After each performance, people come up and ask the Catholic rapper about his faith or solicit advice about changing their own life. Many request prayer.

“There are always people looking for help. There’s always someone touched by what we’re doing.”

Cheers and applause fill the concert hall as C2six walks off stage but the title of his newly released album “Opening Act” with FoundNation aptly describes the musician’s main objective.

“We might be the ones onstage but we’re only the opening act,” Zamora said humbly. “We’re always pointing people to Christ. He’s always the headliner.” 🇺🇸

FROM GANGSTA TO GOSPEL

Rap artist changes the beat when his search
for truth arrives at Catholicism



◀ Carlos Zamora, aka C2Six, left the world of gangsta rap in 2007. After a period of intense study and prayer, he's now a Catholic rapper singing about the "greatest story ever told." (NTC photo/Ben Torres)

There was a time when Carlos "C2six" Zamora enjoyed his reputation as a "gangsta" rap artist.

Standing in front of impressionable audiences, the Fort Worth native exposed the harsh realities of urban life with edgy, beat-driven music. The hardcore lyrics he mouthed were swathed in profanity, tales of gun violence, and sexual innuendo.

Familiar with the gritty-yet-catchy tunes, fans often sang along.

"We sold a lot of records and toured with some national recording acts," explained Zamora, recalling his years in the secular spotlight with the group Southern Kappin Soldiers. "We were very successful."

All that changed one evening as he readied to take the stage for an "all ages" event in Fort Worth.

"I didn't know what 'all ages' meant but my attitude was 'show me the money and I'll be there,'" the musician admitted.

One look inside the bustling auditorium made him rethink going through with the gig. "All ages" meant middle and high school students.

"We got there and realized, yea, there's about 1,500 people here and they're all between the ages of 11 and 16!" remembered a shocked Zamora, who was 30 at the time. "I was appalled. We were going to perform gangsta rap in front of these kids and didn't have anything positive to say."

Continued on Page 55