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NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC



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The Advocate

Some describe His presence as a reassuring warmth. Some as a sudden, clear realization. For others, as a sense of peace or calmness. For the Apostles, He came as a strong, driving wind and tongues of fire. Yet at other times, the guidance of the Holy Spirit comes much more subtly — through gentle nudges that almost go unnoticed.

Whatever way we experience the working of the Holy Spirit — quietly or loudly — this Advocate who shows us God’s paths (*Psalm 25:4*) is constantly present, even though He’s the most hidden of the three persons of the Holy Trinity. Most of the time we may not even notice Him. However, we can rest assured that since our Baptism, we’ve received Him. And at our Confirmation, we received a greater infusion of the graces He offers us.

Yet, we forget. And by forgetting, we unknowingly tune Him out and give greater credibility to other voices. Some of those “voices” can outright lie to us.

We humans are hardwired in such a way that we focus more on the negative than the positive. We remember the criticisms, worries, fears, bad experiences, and tragedies of life better than the good times, happy memories, and even neutral events. Every few years, new studies attest to this.

The tendency is meant to be productive. It almost mimics an examination of conscience. If we mess up, it helps us course correct. This conviction can keep us from falling into justification and rationalization.

Sometimes, though, this inherent tendency can become unhealthy. In psychology circles, it’s called rumination — and it can lead to a host of self-defeating behaviors, or worse. This impulse is something the bad spirit can take hold of and use to mess with us, belittle us, and lie to us with, thereby making us lose sight of our identity as adopted children of God. One bad outcome is what secular sociology calls *anomie*, a fragmentation of identity and values which French sociologist Émile Durkheim described as a “derangement” and “alienation.”

When sin or past mistakes get me slipping down that slope of rumination, or “beating myself up,” I like to call to mind that the Holy Spirit isn’t just for the triumphant saints, Apostles, popes, and priests. We’re all meant to receive the Good Spirit, as He is referred to in *Psalm 143*. Once we open up to Him, the Spirit awakens in us the life-giving nature of the sacraments and all Christ did — and continues to do for us (*CCC 1103*)!

Once we remember that, we can’t help but get a second wind, an inspiration, an encouraging push to be who God meant us to be “and set the world on fire” as St. Catherine of Siena so aptly said and the Apostles so vividly witnessed.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful!

Juan Guajardo, Editor



Drafted students stand on stage with representatives from AZZ Inc. during the 2019 Cristo Rey Draft Day. (NTC/Ben Torres)

Cristo Rey positioned for strong sophomore year

FORT WORTH — The 75 freshmen of Cristo Rey Fort Worth High School don't know how good they have it.

The sophomores who helped the college preparatory school move to its new campus this summer were "in awe" of the gymnasium, an auditorium, and a larger lunchroom, according to Dani Ray Barton, director of the corporate work study program for the school.

The school's second year is starting strong, with more than 40 corporate partners attending draft day on Aug. 16. During the celebratory draft, the students, who number about 140, learned which corporation will employ them one day each week, allowing them to earn a portion of their tuition.

Although Cristo Rey Fort Worth is part of a 37-school nationwide network offering a Catholic college preparatory education to students from economically disadvantaged families, Barton said in its first year, students and businesses

"took a chance" on the new school.

"Now we have delivered on that promise," said Barton. "Moving to this new campus in our second year validates that it's not just a dream, but the school is serving families and serving the community."

The school, which opened last year at the Terrell Heights property that once housed Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School, moved to a 4.47-acre site on Altamesa Boulevard in south Fort Worth.

Minor renovations were completed this summer that allow the facility to accommodate the students this year and next, when the school will serve three grades. The administration is planning a capital campaign to expand the school for 2021-2022, when the campus will house freshmen through seniors.

Also new this year: the school is offering transportation from four Catholic schools across Fort Worth to the campus.

The sky's the limit for STAR students

FORT WORTH — How do you help at-risk children build better futures?

For thousands of families in the North Texas area, the answer is getting kids a great private school education through the STAR Sponsorship Program.

STAR, which stands for Success Through Academic Readiness, connects children from kindergarten through eighth grade with sponsors who help pay for tuition at a local private school. Students write their sponsors monthly and maintain good grades and behavior. Parents contribute what they can afford to tuition and stay involved in the educational process.

STAR students, parents, donors, and staff gathered Aug. 10 to kick off the new school year and celebrate 25 years of the organization.

"We're here because families wanted choice in education, and we've found donors who want to sponsor a student," Patty Myers, STAR executive director, said.

Collins Yawe, 19, studies chemical engineering at the University of Rochester. A former STAR scholar at St. Rita Catholic School, he said, "My parents and STAR valued education and helped me find the best opportunities and the best schools."

— Sandra Engelland



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Sisters from Lovers of the Holy Cross religious order renewed their vows at Vietnamese Martyrs Parish in Arlington. (NTC/Ben Torres)

Nine sisters of Lovers of the Holy Cross renew vows

ARLINGTON — When religious women make vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, they can't be certain where those vows will take them.

Nine sisters from the Lovers of the Holy Cross religious order made their initial profession of vows at their motherhouse in Vietnam. When they renewed their vows, they were 8,600 miles away.

These sisters are studying theology in the U.S.

The renewal of vows was witnessed by the congregation at the 10 a.m. Mass at Vietnamese Martyrs Parish in Arlington on Aug. 11. Sister Maria Ho Thi Quy, who recently finished a four-year term as general superior for the Lovers of the Holy Cross, represented the current general superior.

Sister Maria was especially pleased to attend the renewal of vows. She said, "I am very happy because I see all our young sisters are faithful to their call of following Jesus Christ."

The religious women of Lovers of the Holy Cross renew their vows annually until they take their final vows, typically six or more years after joining.

In Vietnam, the renewal of vows is "very simple," according to Sister Theresa Tran, LHC, who oversees religious education at Vietnamese Martyrs Parish along with Sister Maria Chu, LHC. The renewal in Arlington was quite different — an opportunity to bring awareness and increase understanding of the vocation of religious life, said Sr. Theresa.

Not only was the renewal held during a Sunday Mass, but a reception was held afterwards. The sisters delighted the crowd at the gathering by performing three dances.

"Living our spiritual vows is not easy, but we try every day," said Sr. Theresa, who took her final vows in 2013. "I trust in God and believe in God's providence. He has a plan for me."

Ready, set, grow: new retreat encourages youth

BURLESON — Putting faith into action and learning how to experience a true conversion as Christ's disciple was the mission of a five-day intensive youth retreat held at St. Ann Parish in Burleson.

Emmaline Gappa, a 16-year-old from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller, said *metanoia*, the name of the camp, is appropriate.

"It's a conversion. It speaks true to what the entire camp is," Gappa said. "If you're willing to experience Christ in your life, you're really able to see faith in a different light."

Along with games and hanging out with peers, activities at the

camp included prayer, Adoration, daily Mass, Confession, praise and worship, small groups, service, and breakout talks.

Metanoia Retreat replaces the diocese's two previous camps — Young Disciples and Camp Fort Worth. Victoria Ramon, associate director of youth ministry, said bringing together the two camps allows for something new while keeping the essence of both.

Ramon said, "Overall, we believe the week was a great start and foundation to understanding where Jesus is working and where He is alive in our young people."

— Susan McFarland



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Deacon candidates from the class of 2020 prepare to receive the ministry of lector at St. Patrick Cathedral Aug. 10. (NTC/Ben Torres)

Bishop confers ministry of lector on deacon candidates

FORT WORTH — Bishop Michael Olson conferred the ministry of lector to 11 deacon candidates on Aug. 10 at St. Patrick Cathedral. As lectors, the men,

who are candidates for the 2022 class of deacons, took the first major step in their formation journey. Next year, they receive the ministry of acolyte.

OFFICIAL ASSIGNMENTS

REV. KENNETH BOLIN (ORDINARIATE)

New to the Diocese of Fort Worth, has been appointed Parochial Administrator at St. Thomas Becket Parish, effective July 1.

REV. ALPHONSUS BA VAN DO, CRM

Parochial Vicar at Christ the King Parish in Fort Worth, has been appointed Parochial Vicar at Vietnamese Martyrs Parish in Arlington, effective July 16.

REV. FEDERICO GAYOSO, SJ

Parochial Vicar at All Saints Parish in Fort Worth, has been recalled by his religious order community, effective August 15.

REV. RONALD GONZALES, SJ

New to the Diocese of Fort Worth, has been appointed to serve at Montserrat Retreat Center, effective July 1.

REV. ROY JOSEPH, SJ

New to the Diocese of Fort Worth,

has been appointed to serve at Montserrat Retreat Center, effective July 1.

REV. JOSEPH KEATING

Currently serving as Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbott and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Penelope, has been appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster, effective August 30.

REV. THOMAS KENNEDY (ORDINARIATE)

Currently serving as Parochial Vicar at St. Mary the Virgin Parish in Arlington, will no longer serve as Parochial Administrator of St. Thomas Becket Parish, effective July 1.

REV. BRIJIL LAWRENCE, SAC

Currently Parochial Administrator of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Breckenridge and Jesus of Nazareth Parish in Albany, has been appointed Pastor of the same parishes, effective June 15.

REV. MARK MCKENZIE, SJ

Formerly serving at Montserrat Retreat House, has been recalled by his religious order community, effective August 5.

REV. MICHAEL MOLONEY

Formerly Parochial Administrator of St. Mary Parish in Windthorst and St. Boniface Parish in Scotland, has been appointed Pastor of the same parishes, effective June 15.

REV. BONAVENTURE TUAN VAN NGUYEN, CRM

Formerly serving as Parochial Vicar at Vietnamese Martyrs Parish in Arlington, has been recalled by his religious order community, effective July 16.

REV. KEN ROBINSON

Formerly Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster, has retired, effective July 1.

REV. XAVIER SILVADASAN, HGN

Formerly Parochial Administrator at Holy Angels Parish in Clifton and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Morgan, has been appointed Pastor of the same parishes, effective June 15.

REV. COCOU CYRIAQUE SOUNOU, SVD

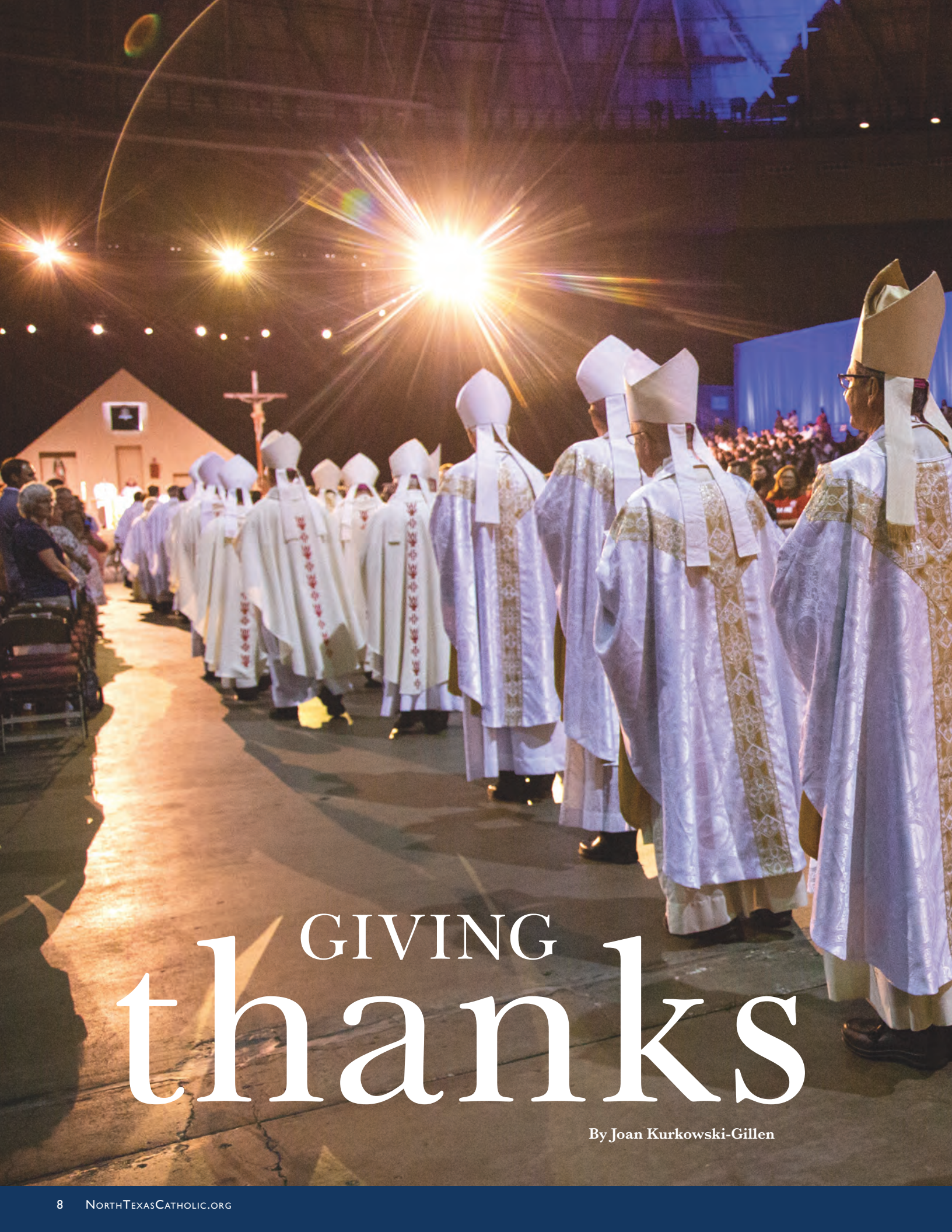
New to the Diocese of Fort Worth, has been appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Fort Worth, effective August 1.

REV. FRANCIS TAN TIEN TA, CRM

New to the Diocese of Fort Worth, has been appointed Parochial Vicar at Christ the King Parish, effective July 16.

REV. JASON WOOLEYHAN, TOR

Parochial Vicar at Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville, has been recalled by his religious order community, effective August 11.



GIVING thanks

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

Bishop Michael Olson, joined by Deacon of the Altar Jim Novak (right) and other bishops, processes into the 50th anniversary Mass Aug. 21. (NTC/Rodger Mallison)

Three thousand Catholics came together to celebrate the Diocese of Fort Worth's golden anniversary Aug. 21

After traveling two hours in rush hour traffic, parishioners from St. Mary Church in Windthorst processed into the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena with their blue and white church banner, then patiently waited for the anniversary Mass to begin.

The group, along with thousands of other Catholics from across North Texas, gathered Aug. 21 to mark the establishment of the Diocese of Fort Worth 50 years ago by the late Pope Paul VI. Since then the 28-county diocese has flourished not only in the number of Catholics, parishes, and schools, but in the rich cultural diversity of its people.

Surrounded by fellow Catholics from small rural farm communities and large urban areas, by Spanish speakers and those wearing the native garb of homelands in Tonga, Vietnam, or Ghana, Jean Berend didn't let the sweeping spirit of the moment go unnoticed.

"This is us. This is our faith and we're all part of it," gushed the St. Mary parishioner looking up at the swell of 3,000 people in the arena. "We're Catholic and we're proud. We should be shouting that from the rooftop."

Although the diocese comprises different ministries and people, the Eucharist is a unifying factor — a point echoed in the evening's theme, "The Eucharist Makes Us the Church."

"The Eucharist is the constant presence of Christ," Bishop Michael Olson told the *North Texas Catholic*. "We have so many gifted people, talents, and a great grace in our diversity, but at the heart of it all is a unity and communion that Jesus offers us in Himself."

Fifty years is just a series of "nows," he pointed out, referencing the milestone anniversary.

By knowing God intimately, the diocese can prepare for the future Christ has planned for it.

"We start today in prayer and thanksgiving, and ask Him for guidance,"

the bishop added.

Constant growth has defined the 23,950-square-mile Diocese of Fort Worth since its beginning. When the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth split into two entities, a mere 75,000 Catholics belonged to 66 parishes in North Texas. Today the diocese boasts a burgeoning 1.2 million self-identified Catholics.

Joe Culotta believes his uncle, the late Bishop Joseph Cassata, was appointed as the new diocese's first leader to spur its growth.

"He was really good at business and I think he was sent to develop and help the Catholic community to grow," said the Houston resident who attended the Mass with another Cassata relative, Dorann Fruia, and her husband, Joe. "I remember him telling me, 'I'm here to do God's work and take care of the Catholic population.'"

During his tenure from 1969 until retirement in 1980, Bishop Cassata gave approval for 12 new parishes as the Catholic population increased to 93,500.

"He was interested in education, helping the marginalized, and had a knack for getting along with people," Culotta recalled. "Cassata High School is a good way to honor him."

A presentation of banners by representatives of the 19 schools and 91 parishes in the diocese helped those present visualize how large and inclusive the local Church has become.

Isabel and Gabriel Velasco were chosen to bring in the flag belonging to St. Benedict — one of the newer parishes.

The youngsters were specifically chosen because "Father [Karl Pikus] wanted people to know that it wasn't just older Catholics who are attracted to the Latin Mass," said the children's father, Ferdinand Velasco. "We have a lot of young families in the parish, too."

St. Benedict's brief history demonstrates just how fast the diocese is growing. Opened in 2015, the parish is already experiencing overflow crowds at its two Sunday Masses.

Continued on Page 12



The Mass brought together familiar faces, like Orange County Bishop Kevin Vann and Pueblo Bishop Stephen Berg. It also brought together local Catholics of many nationalities, including the Czech Republic, India, Philippines, South Korea, Ghana, and Germany (below).



NTC/Rodger Mallison



NTC/Ben Torres

SEE THE VIDEO

See what parishioners had to say about the anniversary Mass at NorthTexasCatholic.org/video-gallery





Bishop Kevin Vann, third bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, gives Communion during the Mass. (NTC/Juan Guajardo)

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“We thought it would take time to catch on,” admitted Velasco, a member of the parish’s Gregorian chant choir. “The growth of the Catholic community in North Texas is exponential and it’s not just the population growing. We have many people entering the Church on Easter Vigil as well.”

Rousing music from St. Patrick Cathedral’s Spanish choir set a festive tone as attendees took their seats.

Lisa Squibbs brought her four young children to the Mass so they could witness the Catholic Church as a universal faith.

“I wanted them to experience the different cultures and see everyone come together,” said the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner.

To the majestic strains of “St. Patrick’s Breastplate,” performed by a 100-member diocesan choir, members of the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and the Order of Malta entered the arena-turned-worship space during a liturgical procession. They were followed by 21 bishops, 96 priests, and 35 deacons. All 30 seminarians for the Diocese of Fort Worth also played a role in the liturgy.

Greeted with a special welcome from Bishop Olson before the Mass began were the Metropolitan Archbishop of San

Antonio Gustavo Garcia-Siller; Orange County Bishop Kevin Vann, who served as the third bishop of Fort Worth; Bishop Stephen Berg of Pueblo, Colorado, a former diocesan priest here; and Auxiliary Bishop Gregory Kelly representing Dallas Bishop Edward Burns. Fort Worth was part of the Dallas diocese prior to 1969.

All four bishops concelebrated the Mass with Bishop Olson.

“It is truly a blessing to be the Deacon of the Word in the most beautiful way — celebrating the most Holy Eucharist,” said newly ordained Deacon Pedro Martinez, who read the Gospel (*Matt. 20:1–16*) in Spanish. “I’m honored and blessed to be part of this 50th anniversary celebration.”

When his family moved to Fort Worth from Mexico 18 years ago, the diocese provided pastoral and spiritual care to them primarily through access to a Spanish Mass.

“Let us continue to pray that the Diocese of Fort Worth can proclaim and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ — all of it,” he said.

Sister Theresa Y Thi Tran expressed a similar sentiment. Her congregation, the Lovers of the Holy Cross, arrived here in 2017 from Vietnam to assist Vietnamese Martyrs parishioners.

“We wanted to come here today to thank God for everything He’s done

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Ninety-six priests, 21 bishops, and 35 deacons participated in the anniversary Mass Aug. 21. (NTC/Juan Guajardo)





MORE PHOTOS

To view our photos from the 50th Mass, visit NorthTexasCatholic.org and click on 'Photo Gallery.'



Students from St. Mary Catholic School in Gainesville process with their school's banner prior to the Mass. (NTC/Rodger Mallison)



TOP: Anna Nguyen and her daughter, Dianna, from Vietnamese Martyrs Parish in Arlington, wore their traditional áo dài to the 50th Anniversary Mass. (NTC/Rodger Mallison)

ABOVE: A man prays during the 50th Anniversary Mass at the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena. (NTC/Ben Torres)



Bishop Michael Olson delivers his homily to an audience of 3,000 local Catholics. (NTC/Juan Guajardo)

From Page 13

for the diocese,” she said. “The people in the diocese are special to us because they accepted us for ministry.”

In his homily, Bishop Olson noted the anniversary liturgy coincided with the memorial of Saint Pius X. The former pontiff, known as the Pope of the Blessed Sacrament, served during the bloodiest century in human history.

“Pope St. Pius X cared for the people of God not as a politician or as a diplomat, but as a pastor who sought to restore all things in Christ,” he said. “He called the Church back into the reality of the mystery of the Eucharist in its real presence of Christ: the Eucharist frequently received with reverence and devotion and offered with simplicity and beauty.”

The bishop urged his listeners to contemplate anew the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

“By taking Him for granted, we end up grasping for things in selfishness and in the darkness of entitlement instead of belonging to Christ and each other as the Church,” he warned.

Using words written by Pope Francis, Bishop Olson also used the occasion to

acknowledge and express appreciation to those priests who faithfully and generously spend their lives in service to others. Many make their lives a “work of mercy” for the sake of the Gospel in areas that are often hostile, isolated, or ignored.

“I know this to be true of you, not only as your bishop, but as a priest of this diocese who has served with you for more than 25 years,” he said.

One of those priests, Monsignor Publius Xuereb joined the diocese 50 years ago, serving under all four Fort Worth bishops. A chance meeting with Bishop Cassata in Dallas when he was 25 brought the native of Malta to the United States and Texas in 1969. He remembers when there was no DFW Airport or Highway 121 and only wide-open spaces north of St. George Parish in Haltom City. The chancery office was one room in the basement of a building at St. Patrick Cathedral.

READ THE HOMILY

To read the full version of Bishop Olson’s 50th Anniversary Mass homily, visit FWBishopOlson.blogspot.com



“There were very few parishes and only cows from Nolan High School to Dallas,” joked the pastor of Holy Redeemer who also served 10 other parishes. “The diocese has grown a lot — unbelievably.”

The 75-year-old monsignor has fond memories of all the bishops he worked under. Bishop Joseph P. Delaney, the second bishop of Fort Worth, died in 2005 and was succeeded by Bishop Vann.

“I loved them all. They were all good and had their own particular gifts to offer,” he observed.

Each bishop helped the diocese flourish. “We’re having a celebration today because of Cassata, Delaney, Vann, and Olson,” the monsignor said emphatically. “I thank God for them.”

Ringers from the bell choirs at St. Patrick, Good Shepherd, St. Andrew, and Holy Family closed the liturgy with a stirring rendition of “Let There Be Peace on Earth.” 🇺🇸

Father Mike Schmitz during
Eucharistic Adoration at the
Encounter Texas Conference.
(NTC) Joseph Barringhaus



Take *Jesus* on Vacation

Christ, community, and conviviality headline the Encounter Texas Conference

By Matthew Smith

The aim of the Aug. 16-18 Encounter Texas Conference, held at the Gaylord Texan Resort, was to offer something for everyone.

From fun events — a Boomers and Beer Social, singles trivia, and a Matt Maher concert — to noted speakers, to Sunday’s culmination of Mass concelebrated by Fort Worth Bishop Michael Olson, those goals appear to have been met.

“Oh man, I’m loving it,” Fort Worth’s St. Peter the Apostle parishioner Jim Price said the second day. “I’m getting really hyped up here for the Lord and definitely I hope they bring this back next year.”

Across the lobby, Catherine Gorman, also from St. Peter, was impressed by the speakers and derived inspiration from their messages.

“I came away with way more self-awareness,” Gorman said. “It made me really want to go to confession, which I did. Now I’m really looking forward to

Adoration because that’s something that changes lives.”

Peter Fontana, Adore Ministries vice president of movement, explained that, having outgrown Houston, this was the first Encounter Texas Conference in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

“The purpose is we’re all about vacation, community, and Jesus,” Fontana said, referencing the multiple attractions of the Gaylord Texan. “We can go on vacation

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From Page 15

with our faith community and go deeper in Jesus. That's the vision. Where else can you come to have a spiritual journey for all generations of your family?"

Adore worked in conjunction with the Diocese of Fort Worth to organize the event.

"The purpose of these events is to come in front of the Blessed Sacrament and reveal its power so you can go back and make that part of your daily lives," Fontana told the crowd. "The movement element is the question of how do we begin to create small communities? In that way we exist in the gap between the parish and the people."

FIND YOUR OWN CALCUTTA

Ennie Hickman of Del Rey Collective, echoed Fontana's call to love and befriend one's neighbors.

"If Jesus says, 'Follow Me,' our lives should look like Christ's," Hickman said. "The greatest good is God and the greatest act of charity is sharing God.

"It's not OK to worship in here and not be the Church outside. It's not the same to be at church as it is to be the Church. Being the Church means loving indiscriminately and loving sacrificially and loving your neighbor."

Hickman spoke of St. Teresa of Calcutta's 1976 commencement speech after which several students voiced their desires to work with her:

"She told them to find their own Calcutta," Hickman said. "She told them to not move and to stay where they are because there are plenty of sick, suffering, and lonely people right where they are. You can find Calcutta all over the world."

Hickman's audience was a diverse one.

ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES

Father Mike Schmitz, a campus minister at the University of Minnesota at Duluth and a well-known presenter for Ascension Press, spoke of choices and the afterlife.

Because of the fall, we as humans



The Encounter Texas Conference had events for every age. Here, Ennie Hickman speaks to youth. (NTC/Kevin Bartram)

MORE PHOTOS

See more faith and fun by visiting NorthTexasCatholic.org and clicking on 'Photo Gallery.'



can choose anything other than God and here's what we get: anything other than God. God in His goodness lets us have what we've chosen — lets us have what we said we wanted."

THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

Bishop Olson spoke of the vocation of family and its role in the Church and society.

Family represents the domestic church, Bishop Olson said, not simply an aggregate of individuals with selfish interests sharing space together for mere convenience.

Bishop Olson said to hundreds of fathers, mothers, youth, and children, "The role of the Church is not to be the only institution to offer guidance and direction in society. That begins with the integrity of marital and family life and sanctifying each other in prayer and living the gospel of mercy in relation to the days, which never go as planned.

"The responsibility of fathers and mothers to their sons and daughters is to prepare them for heaven. The responsibility of children is to grow from mere compliance to an obedience rooted in respect and love." 🇺🇸

experience a death that is not only unnatural but an obscenity as well, Fr. Schmitz said.

"It's not natural," he explained. "It's not part of God's plan and we have to understand that that kind of death is our enemy."

Fortunately, Fr. Schmitz said, the story doesn't end there.

"Ultimately we're called as Christians to approach death with our eyes wide open," Fr. Schmitz said. "In Christ, death becomes something more. Ultimately death is the thing through which we pass to new life. But it has to pass through the transformational power of Jesus Christ to do so."

The challenge, he continued, is that God, through His love, wisdom, and gift of free will, gives us exactly what we ask for.

"Jesus is the only reason heaven is even possible for us," Fr. Schmitz said. "In the end we can choose God and get Him because Jesus made that possible. Or we

Parishioners of Holy Trinity Church stand for the proclamation of the Gospel during the community's dedication Mass in Azle June 16. (NTC/Ben Torres)



AZLE'S FIRST PARISH

After 37 years, Holy Trinity Mission becomes a parish

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

Larry Brunello arrived early for a celebration he's waited decades to attend.

When the Wisconsin native settled in Azle in 1975 after retiring from the U.S. Air Force, Sunday worship involved a long car ride to a Fort Worth church or the Carswell AFB chapel.

On June 16, the former airline pilot watched as Bishop Michael Olson read a decree establishing Holy Trinity as the first Catholic parish in Azle with Father Wilson Lucka, TOR, as its pastor. Since 1982, Holy Trinity served the growing faith

community in semirural Tarrant County as a mission of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. Azle is approximately 20 minutes northwest of Fort Worth.

"This is just wonderful," said Brunello, who greeted the long-anticipated announcement with applause along with other parishioners who filled the newly renovated sanctuary.

When Holy Trinity Mission acquired property on High Crest Drive and built a multi-purpose hall for Mass and meetings in 1996, the former Men's Club president mowed the lawn, landscaped, and did

maintenance work. Over a 10-year period, Brunello and other members of the organization worked at the Texas Motor Speedway, raising \$60,000 to pay the building's mortgage. The hall was retrofitted with pews and kneelers last year to make it more church-like in appearance.

"There are about a half-dozen families who have been here from the very beginning. We helped build this parish," Brunello said proudly. "I used to know everybody in the church but now we're

Continued on Page 18



Fr. Wilson Lucka is congratulated by parishioners after being appointed the first pastor of Holy Trinity Parish by Bishop Michael Olson following a dedication Mass in Azle June 16. (NTC/Ben Torres)

MORE PHOTOS

Take a tour of Holy Trinity Parish by visiting NorthTexasCatholic.org and clicking on 'Photo Gallery.'



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growing so fast.”

Appropriately held on the feast of the Holy Trinity, the bilingual dedication Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Olson along with Fr. Lucka, Father Mathew Kavipurayidam, TOR, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, and Father George Thennattil, TOR.

Welcoming the congregation at the beginning of the morning liturgy, Bishop Olson acknowledged the day’s significance.

“It’s joyful for me to be with you today to celebrate this Eucharist on the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity — the patron of your parish,” he said, also noting it was Father’s Day. “I’m so happy and grateful the Lord has brought us to this point — establishing a parish that will grow and flourish as a community of God.”

During his homily, the bishop told members of the new parish that God reminds us He is creator, redeemer, and sanctifier of the world through the Holy Trinity.

As a new parish bearing the name of the Trinity, the homilist asked his listeners to become God’s people.

“Become His Church here to extend, grow, contribute, and seek out those who have been lost and those who come to us from other places in the order of God’s providence,” he advised.

Holy Trinity parishioners are enthused about having a full-time priest in the community, according to Dick Schiefelbein, a member of the pastoral council.

“We’ve been served by priests from St. Thomas, but they live on the other side of Eagle Mountain Lake,” he explained. “We have a new rectory and it will be nice to have a priest nearby.”

The availability of clergy will allow the parish to begin offering an 8 a.m. daily Mass and a 5 p.m. vigil Mass on Saturday, in addition to a 9 a.m. Sunday Mass in English and 11 a.m. Spanish Mass.

“Holy Trinity flourished because of the teamwork of the founding families who became the core of a close, loving parish family,” Schiefelbein added.

Representing the 350 families who belong to Holy Trinity, Schiefelbein thanked Fr. Kavipurayidam for serving as the former mission’s pastor during the past five years while still tending to the needs of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. Under his

leadership, a Spanish-language Mass was started at Holy Trinity and facilities were expanded and improved.

“We are grateful to you for bringing the sacraments to us in Azle and for your hospital and home visits when we needed the fruits of your ministry in a special way,” he said, before presenting the Franciscan friar with a silver-toned crucifix. “Leading two church communities demonstrates the love, effort, and perseverance you bring to your ministry.”

Fr. Lucka told the *North Texas Catholic* becoming a pastor for the first time is exciting.

“I’m learning and listening to people,” said the priest who was ordained in 2002. “I want to find out what they need. It’s a very independent, vibrant community with people participating in a lot of ministries.”

Addressing the parish community, Fr. Lucka said he felt “greatly blessed” to be their pastor.

“Today we start our journey together to be a beacon in the Azle community to the glory of God,” he announced confidently. “I pledge to you my unceasing prayers and my continuous efforts to serve you in my priestly ministry.”

Following the Mass, Martha Guzman and other parishioners served a reception lunch of grilled chicken, sausage, brisket, and salads. A member of Holy Trinity for 20 years, she is part of the church community’s growing Hispanic demographic.

“Sometimes I went to St. Thomas for the Spanish Mass there, but I live in Azle. Having one here is wonderful,” she said enthusiastically. “Today I’m so happy for all of us.” 🇺🇸

FOREVER YES

Sister Lola Ulupano teaches second grade at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, but says she's "ready to go wherever they send me." (NTC/Juan Guajardo)

Sister Lola Ulupano takes final vows, committing to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur for life

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

They're usually called perpetual or final vows. But, after 11 years of religious formation that included time spent in Brazil tutoring children, earning a college degree, and becoming a U.S. citizen, Sister Lola Ulupano referred to her lifetime commitment to the Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur (SSMN) as a "forever yes."

"I'm ready to go wherever they send me," said the congregation's newest member who professed vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience during a Mass celebrated Aug. 10 at St. Michael Parish in Bedford. "I've had the desire to be a sister since I was a child."

Imbued with many of the traditions and customs of her native Tonga, the liturgy featured uplifting music and a solemn procession of the Gospel. Four men, dressed

in *ta'ovala* mats tied with *kafa* rope, carried a float with a young girl. In the youngster's raised arms was the Book of the Gospels, which was slowly lowered to Deacon Sangote Ulupano, Sr. Lola's father, who waited at the foot of the altar.

Father Kapiolani Kakala, the Tongan chaplain to the U.S., concelebrated the Mass with Pallottine Father Balaji Boyalla, St. Michael's pastor. The chaplain is related to Sr. Lola's mother, Suatapu Ulupano.

During the ceremony, the cradle Catholic thought of her paternal grandparents who raised her in Tonga.

"My grandma and grandpa planted the seed [of a religious vocation] early in me," she remembered. "I'm so grateful to them for that."

Sr. Lola arrived in the U.S. at the age of 19 and spent her first three years in the country learning the language and American customs. Once she felt

comfortable in her new surroundings, the eager daughter asked her father for help.

"I never went to a vocation awareness weekend," she disclosed. "I just asked my dad to call and find a convent for me. I wanted to see what life as a sister would be like."

Dcn. Ulupano reached out to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur — a Belgian-based order who came to the U.S. in 1863 to work as missionaries. After establishing a school for immigrant children in Lockport, New York, a second team of sisters traveled to Texas where they pioneered education in several cities located near railroads. In 1885, the congregation opened St. Ignatius Academy in downtown Fort Worth and later welcomed students to Our Lady of Victory Academy and College. It exists today as an elementary school.

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Ella Edmiston distributes the Blood of Christ during a Youth Mass celebrated by Fr. Xavier Silvadasan, HGN, at Holy Angels Parish in Clifton. (NTC/Ben Torres)

INVESTING *for the* FUTURE

Needy parishes and schools use Annual Diocesan Appeal grants to cultivate growth

By Susan Moses

If you want to know what someone values, take a look at his credit card statements and calendar. What you see will reveal a lot. How we spend our money and our time reflects what is important to us.

Jesus expressed that idea more eloquently in His Sermon on the Mount. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (*Matthew 6:21*).

Where is the heart of the Diocese of Fort Worth? What does the diocese value?

A look at how the Annual Diocesan Appeal disburses its funds shows what the diocese treasures. Helping the poor and marginalized through Catholic Charities Fort Worth. Caring for retired priests. Securing our spiritual foundation through the

formation of permanent deacons and seminarians. Ministering to prisoners. Supporting strong marriages and family life. Providing campus ministry to college students. Helping Catholic education remain affordable.

In 2018-19, about one third of the \$3,071,292 given by more than 10,800 families went to support these vital efforts.

This good — bestowed throughout the diocese and made possible by the people of the diocese — represents only part of how the Annual Diocesan Appeal benefits the faithful of North Texas.

More than \$1 million of the funds raised in the Appeal were distributed through

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THE *Eucharist* Makes Us THE *Church*



To All Of Those Who, in Faith, Supported
The **2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal**

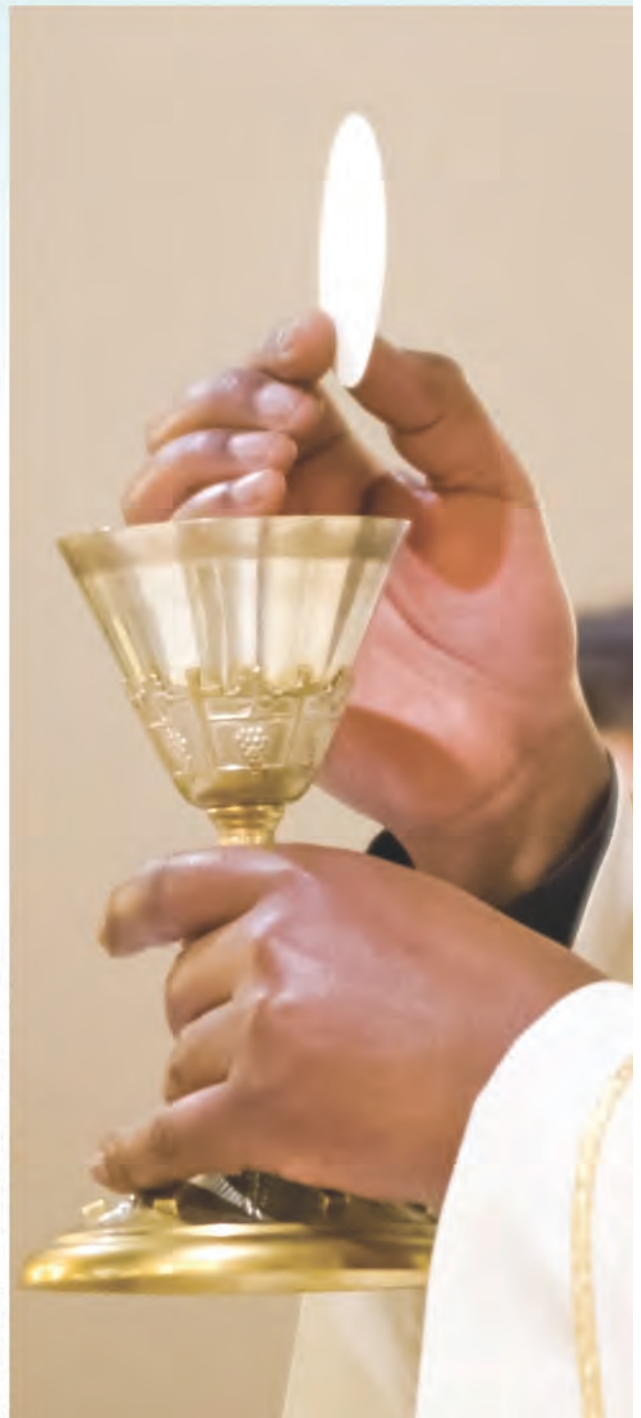
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To Learn More About How Your Contributions
Help To Sustain The Ministries and Programs That
Promote the Healing, Teaching and Redemptive
Presence of Jesus Christ Throughout the 28 Counties
of the Diocese of Fort Worth.



Dedicated to Catholic education: Jacqueline Jones, a graduate of St. Mary Catholic School, returned six years ago to teach kindergarten at the Gainesville school. (NTC/Jayne Donahue)



parishes and schools.

BUILDING TOMORROW'S CHURCH

About the time this article is published, the teachers at St. Mary Catholic School in Gainesville are getting a pleasant surprise. Their paychecks are a little larger than expected.

Like most Catholic educators, St. Mary teachers work for less than they would earn teaching at a public school, but “our teachers are dedicated,” said Father John Pacheco, pastor of St. Mary Parish. Their commitment to Catholic education means they sacrifice income to keep tuition more affordable.

Fr. Pacheco said, “We want to do the best we can for our teachers. We were overjoyed to receive the grant, because our teachers deserve it. They know the kids. They love the kids.”

Fr. Pacheco was educated in public schools, but since becoming pastor of St. Mary, he’s become “a big advocate of Catholic education.” He explained, “God is in the classroom at our school. We pray. We go to Mass weekly. Catholic education is really important.”

The Catholic education the students receive has a “big effect,” according to the priest. “These students and teachers stay in touch, even after they graduate. The kids go on to be the top students in their high schools, and they make good decisions as they get older.”

Holy Angels Parish in Clifton is also using their grant to instill a lifelong faith in their young people. Like many of the 29 parishes that received operating grants, the parish will use funds from the Annual Diocesan Appeal to improve its religious education and youth group programs. With about 120 families, the small parish just northwest of Waco struggles to balance staff salaries with upkeep of the church property using weekly collections alone.

“Being a small rural parish with a lower average income level than a larger metropolitan parish, these funds will make such a difference to help continue the programs that we currently have in place for our youth and help them to grow,” said Father Xavier Silvadasan, HGN, pastor.

The parish’s vibrant children’s program includes Vacation Bible School, monthly youth Masses, and diocesan retreats that

St. Maria Goretti Catholic School students will have an outdoor learning center and additional hands-on curriculum. (NTC/Ben Torres)



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operating grants. Each year, parishes and schools may apply for grants to help with specific needs. Renée Underwood, associate director of the Advancement Foundation, said parishes and schools, especially in rural or underprivileged areas, “need resources and support to help navigate the temporal

issues along with the spiritual. The Appeal is to make the entire diocese, all of us, better. We’re all one family.”

Although the parishes and schools that received operating grants in 2018-19 stretch over the vast 23,900 square miles of the Diocese of Fort Worth, the majority requested funds to achieve the same goal: to invest in youth — the future of their



The newest parish, Holy Trinity, will use grant funds for faith formation. Father Wilson Lucka, TOR, is pastor. (NTC/Juan Guajardo)

help students grow in their Catholic faith. This year, the parish plans to transition to family religious formation in which parents, guided by a catechist, teach their children.

APPEAL FOSTERS GROWTH

Holy Angels Parish is well established, tracing its origins to 1954, but two other parishes receiving operating grants exemplify how the Annual Diocesan Appeal helps parishes keep pace with rapid population growth.

The diocese's newest parish, Holy Trinity in Azle, received a grant, as did the parish that supported it as a mission: St. Thomas the Apostle in Fort Worth.

Beverly Oberdorf served as the business manager for both churches until Holy Trinity became a parish in June. She explained that new neighborhoods developing in Azle and the Eagle Mountain Lake area of Fort Worth are bringing people into the community and into their pews.

Underwood, the associate director of the Advancement Foundation, said "Azle and St. Thomas the Apostle are the ideal example of what this Appeal is all about. They have good core people working hard. They have fully functional finance councils and pastoral councils, but they just needed help and encouragement to grow and to turn corners."

Both parishes have completed building projects to accommodate the growth,

leaving little in the budget for staffing. Oberdorf juggled many responsibilities when she and one other employee operated the parish office at St. Thomas the Apostle, even setting up chairs and tables for events.

With the grant, the parish of 1,000 active families is hiring staff to help with liturgy, communications, administration, and the facility "to help parishioners in a timely manner," according to Oberdorf. Holy Trinity is hiring staff to help with sacramental preparation and religious education.

"For parishes that receive a grant, it's a blessing because we are all working together for the common good," she said.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal will help foster measurable growth at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School also — growth that sprouts from the soil.

The Arlington school is using part of their grant for curriculum resources that support hands-on learning opportunities, including an outdoor learning center.

In the garden, which will start in October, students will learn science, of course, but they can also practice math skills as they measure and graph the height of beanstalks, sharpen their artistic talents with sketches of nature, and find fertile ground for prayer and reflection.

Principal Laura Behee said curriculum resources purchased with the Appeal grant will advance Bishop Michael Olson's vision of a classical education. The new programs

encourage active engagement across each subject and are developmentally appropriate for each grade.

A portion of the school's grant will allow for a part-time development director. Those responsibilities were shared between Behee and two other staff members last year.

Behee said the Appeal demonstrates that Catholic education "comes together through the generosity of many different people. It's a group effort, not just our parish or our parents. We couldn't do it without the generosity of many."

The majority of Appeal donors use traditional pledge cards, but some parishioners are taking advantage of convenient ways to pay introduced in recent years. Many donors have chosen to support the Appeal continually through the St. Francis Circle, which features eco-friendly monthly automatic deductions from a bank account or credit card, eliminating mailed reminders.

Other donors have adopted the text-to-give plan, supporting their brothers and sisters across the diocese with a simple text of ADA to 91999.

Sept. 14-15 will be announcement weekend in the parishes, and Sept. 21-22 will be commitment weekend.

To learn more about the Annual Diocesan Appeal, visit AdvancementFoundation.org/annual-diocesan-appeal. 🇺🇸



Diocese of Fort Worth Bishop John J. Cassata joins Father Gerald Cooney for the 1971 groundbreaking of St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Fort Worth. (NTCArchives)

50-YEAR journeys

St. Bartholomew in Fort Worth and St. Rose of Lima
in Glen Rose share 50-year anniversaries with the diocese

By Jerry Circelli



A view of the sanctuary at St. Bartholomew Parish in Fort Worth. (NTC/Juan Guajardo)

The Diocese of Fort Worth shares a special milestone this year with St. Bartholomew Parish in Fort Worth and St. Rose of Lima Parish in Glen Rose. All are celebrating a half-century of spreading the Good News as part of Christ's Church in North Texas.

The year 1969 would prove to be an opportune time for the creation of the new diocese and two of its parishes that remain to this day active and vibrant in serving the local faithful.

Like the evolution of the Diocese of Fort Worth, the faith progression that led to the creation of St. Bartholomew and St. Rose of Lima is deeply rooted in history.

For the territory now part of the Diocese of Fort Worth, the long but steady path to existence began in the early 1800s when it was part of the Mexican Diocese of Linares-Monterrey. It evolved to become part of the Diocese of New Orleans in 1838, Prefecture Apostolic of Texas in 1839, Vicariate Apostolic of Texas in 1842, the Diocese of Galveston in 1847, the Diocese of Dallas in 1890, the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth in 1953, and finally the Diocese of Fort Worth in 1969.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW IN FORT WORTH

The Christian community in southwest Fort Worth also experienced an evolution that eventually led to the creation of St. Bartholomew Church. The parish, founded in June 1969 by the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth, actually predates the Diocese of Fort Worth by a few months.

Bishop Thomas K. Gorman, shepherd of the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth at the time, established St. Bartholomew as a parish and appointed Father Gerald Cooney as its first pastor.

The original 575 families of St. Bartholomew attended Mass at St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth and various schools until August 1972. At that time, on the feast of St. Bartholomew, parishioners gathered in their new church, which was still under construction, for Mass. By December 1972, St. Bartholomew Church was completed and the growing parish finally

had a place of worship of its own.

St. Bartholomew has completed several building projects during the past 50 years. These have included a 23,000-square-foot Parish Life Center, St. Vincent de Paul outreach and maintenance buildings, extensive church renovations, and rectory improvements.

St. Bartholomew is now spiritual home to 3,000 families who are active in several vibrant ministries.

One of those parishioners, Michael Sawey, has been a part of St. Bartholomew for 31 years. He and his wife, April, were married at St. Bartholomew and their daughter, Alara, was baptized and received her First Holy Communion there.

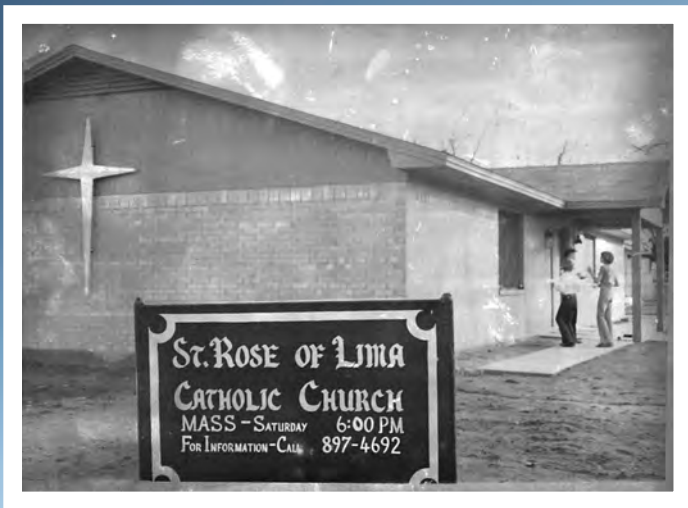
Sawey was 15 years old in 1988 when his parents became parishioners and he has been involved with St. Bartholomew ever since. When he attended Texas

MORE PHOTOS

Take a tour of St. Rose of Lima and St. Bartholomew by visiting NorthTexasCatholic.org and clicking on 'Photo Gallery.'



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A view of St. Rose of Lima Church in Glen Rose. (NTC/Juan Guajardo)

INSET: An NTC archival photo shows the old St. Rose of Lima Church during Bishop Cassata's episcopate.

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Wesleyan University and Texas Christian University, Sawey's participation never waned. Later, when he married and began raising a family, his faith continued with his local church at the center. That spiritual commitment, he said, is a testament to St. Bartholomew Parish.

"I wanted to be here," Sawey said. "The Church here has always been a very welcoming place. All of our friends were here. We had a good time here, we learned a lot here, and we grew.

"St. Bartholomew has always been such an important part of our lives.

Most of our friends, relationships, and community center around the parish in some way. And so, we always just wanted to attend and be active. We've always wanted to be involved here."

St. Bartholomew Church parishioners remembered their roots and gave thanks to God for their parish on Aug. 24 — the Feast Day of St. Bartholomew — with a 50th anniversary Mass celebration.

**ST. ROSE OF LIMA
IN GLEN ROSE**

From the Somervell County town of Glen Rose, local families regularly traveled to Stephenville and Cleburne for Mass but desired a place of worship in their town.

Father Aidan Maguire, a Pallottine religious order priest, responded to their wishes in 1967 and began visiting Catholics in Glen Rose on a monthly basis to celebrate Mass in the home of the faithful.

One of the families donated a house outside the city as a place for worship. Another generous family later stepped up and purchased two lots in the city proper for a church site and the modest, donated house of worship was moved there.

By 1968, the local church was known as St. Rose, a name closely aligned with Glen Rose. When it was established as a parish in 1969, the church took the specific name of St. Rose of Lima — the

From Page 19

Visiting the Shaw Street convent, the young Lola was impressed by an overwhelming sense of joy.

“That’s what attracted me, and I knew right away it was the right place for me,” she explained. “They were serving God’s people with what they have, joyfully.”

According to the order’s Texas vocation director, Sr. Lola’s profession of final vows adds an extra element of hope and joy as the international congregation, founded in 1819, celebrates its 200th Jubilee.

“Her presence in our community, along with her unique cultural richness and spiritual groundedness in faith, broadens our vision of welcome, our spirituality, and helps deepen the work of our charism,” extolled Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN. “She is a great witness of religious life to young people.”

As part of the vocations team for the SSMN western region, Sr. Lola will share with youth of all ages what it means to be a religious sister in today’s world and how to listen to God’s call in their own lives.

“We are so grateful for her ‘yes’ to God and for the generosity of her family and Tongan community who supported her on this journey,” Sr. Yolanda added.

Encouraged by her parents and five siblings, the St. Michael parishioner joined the congregation as a postulant then completed two-and-a-half years as a novice. Part of that time was spent in Brazil where



Father Kapiolani Kakala blessed Sister Lola during the Mass when she made perpetual vows. Her father, Deacon Sangote Ulupano, holds the book of prayers while Father Balaji Boyalla, SAC, also prays. (courtesy photo)

she learned Portuguese and tutored school children in reading.

In 2013, she professed first vows during a ceremony inside St. Michael Church and received a simple brown cross on a string necklace symbolizing her membership in the SSMN community. The cross, imprinted with an image of Christ, belonged to the late Sister St. John Begnaud who wanted it given to the order’s newest vocation.

Sr. Lola wears the religious article as she continues one of her congregation’s most recognized missions — teaching. After taking a year-long sabbatical to prepare for final vows, the enthusiastic educator returned to

the second grade classroom at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School Aug. 12.

The discernment process included a month-long retreat in Colorado and a visit to the congregation’s headquarters.

“It’s been a very busy year,” Sr. Lola admitted, “but I felt God’s hand in all of it.”

OLV Principal Linda Kuntz and fellow teachers attended the Aug. 10 Mass.

“It was beautiful to witness the vows she made, with love from the heart — not only to God but to her congregation,” Kuntz said. “I was moved by her words and willingness to serve wherever the sisters need her.” 🇺🇸

first person born in the Americas to be canonized in the Catholic Church. Like St. Rose of Lima, the parish that bears her name has had a long history of benevolence and generosity.

After the De Cordova Bend Dam was completed on the Brazos River in 1969 creating Lake Granbury, the local community grew rapidly.

Through the years, St. Rose of Lima has kept pace with development. By fall of 1978, a larger multi-purpose building for use as a place of worship and parish hall was constructed.

In 1989, the original house of worship was removed, and plans were underway for a new church.

The present house of worship was dedicated in March 1993.

Today, 153 families have made St. Rose of Lima their spiritual home. They are presently involved in a fundraising campaign to build a new church.

Among them is Anthony Roofino, who moved from Dallas to Glen Rose in 1988 to enjoy country living and at the same time found joy in being part of a rural parish.

“It’s wonderful. It’s been a Godsend for me. I just love it,” Roofino said.

“Everybody knows one another, and we all wear different hats every Sunday,” Roofino continued, explaining that parishioners are often involved in several

ministries from Eucharistic ministers, to lectors, to choir members, to teachers.

Being a member of St. Rose of Lima, he said, goes hand-in-hand with being active in parish ministry.

In addition, Roofino said the parish’s local Knights of Columbus council is involved in the community, sponsoring a golf tournament with proceeds benefiting the local food bank and the church building projects.

St. Rose of Lima honored its 50th anniversary as a parish August 22-24, with Rosaries, Masses, a dinner, a play about St. Rose of Lima conducted by the youth, and a procession of a statue of the parish’s namesake. 🇺🇸



Another Door Opens

Father Ken Robinson
retires as pastor of
Sacred Heart Parish

By Matthew Smith

Gregarious, convivial, never shy about joining in on the heavy lifting, soon to be much missed, and similar descriptions bandied among the several hundred Sacred Heart parishioners tucking into German sausage, fried chicken, and too many dessert options to list during a post-Mass retirement celebration for Father Ken Robinson.

“Father Ken brought stability, and everyone could tell he really cared,” parishioner Gary Endres said. “He’s leaving quite a legacy, and, while we look forward to our next priest, he’s going to have a hard act to follow.”

Fr. Robinson, ordained in 1992 at the age of 41, has served at Sacred Heart since 2007, having previously served at St. Michael Parish in Bedford, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine, and St. George Parish in Fort Worth.

Born in Austria — his father served

in the U.S. Military — Fr. Robinson lived in Europe until he was 12 when his family moved to Texas, his mother’s home state.

Fr. Robinson said he had no youthful inkling he would one day be a Catholic priest.

“No, because my family wasn’t Catholic although my uncle married a Catholic and my first cousins are all Catholic,” Fr. Robinson said. “But from early on, I knew I wanted to be involved in the church, whatever church that was. As I moved into my twenties I recognized that was probably going to be the Catholic Church.”

Fr. Robinson entered the Church while he was a student at Baylor University.

“That was a challenge for some family members,” Fr. Robinson said.

Fr. Robinson earned bachelor’s degrees in secondary education and

MORE PHOTOS

Catch Mass and his retirement celebration at: NorthTexasCatholic.org and click on 'Photo Gallery.'



medical technology from there, in addition to a master's degree in history from Ohio University. He later worked at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas and became active at St. Rita Parish in Fort Worth.

"The time came when I needed to move forward, take that big step, and say, 'OK. I really feel I should be a priest,'" Fr. Robinson said.

Sacred Heart, founded in 1889, is one of seven parishes to have been part of the Galveston, Dallas, and Fort Worth dioceses, something the parishioners, several of whose families date back to Muenster's founding, are rightfully proud of.

"Muenster's a German community founded in 1889," Fr. Robinson said. "They placed the church in the very center of town when they platted the community. Behind the church, the school, right behind that the cemetery. Cradle to grave they've got you covered."

Comments made during Fr. Robinson's farewell lunch made clear the love his parishioners hold for him.

Laura Fuhrmann noted he witnessed her marriage and baptized her four children.

Robert Miller and his wife, Betty, characterized Fr. Robinson as personal, wonderful, and dedicated to the parish.

And Endres added, "When we redid the community center, he was on the lift cleaning the ceiling and you'd see him pulling weeds and sweeping. He's not afraid to get his hands dirty."

Fr. Robinson in turn credits Sacred Heart's "vibrant" parishioners.

"When you come into a parish you don't tell people what to do," Fr. Robinson said. "You ask and listen. The parish hadn't been renovated in 20 years when I came, and a lot asked why we couldn't. I said, 'Let's just do it.' They said, 'We don't know if we can.' I said, 'Yes, we can.'"

"We started with the community center. I didn't know how many would show up but about 80 did — everyone from grandmothers to young children.

"I said, 'All right folks. If you want to improve things, we must identify what [the needs] are and then you have to raise the money. If we can't pay for it, we can't have it.' They had a capital campaign and raised \$2.5 million in about two months."

Fr. Robinson paused a moment when asked what surprised him about being a priest.

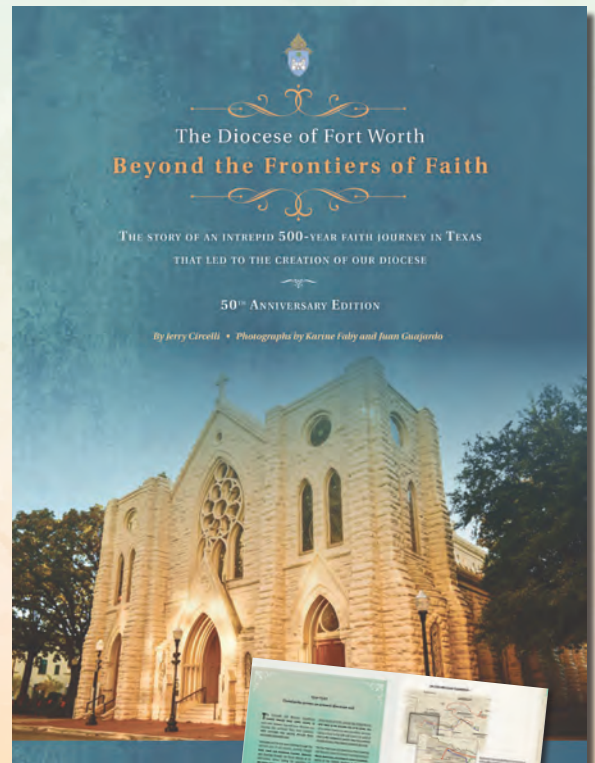
"I suppose the administrative work involved," Fr. Robinson said. "You're trained to be a pastoral minister, but you also end up doing a lot of administrative and other work. You find people in the parish to help with those things but ultimately the buck stops with you."

Which is why Fr. Robinson decided now is the time to, if not retire exactly, at least step back.

"It isn't a case of I don't want to be a priest still," Fr. Robinson said. "I am a priest. That doesn't change. I'm not tired of being a priest. I'm looking forward to just doing pastoral ministry."

Next up is a move to St. Francis Village in Crowley, where Fr. Robinson will continue to celebrate Mass while leaving the administrative duties to others. 🇺🇸

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KNOWLEDGE empowers

Diocese to implement new Safe Environment program for children and youth

By Mary Lou Seewoester



When we teach the skills of childhood, such as riding a bicycle or crossing the street, we give children the training and tools to be safe. We provide a helmet to the biker and practice looking both ways before crossing the street. We want them to be aware of possible dangers without causing undue fear.

The same principles apply when teaching our children to be safe from someone who might harm them or make them feel uncomfortable in schools, parishes, or even online, said Richard Mathews, diocesan director of safe environment.

Beginning this fall, the Diocese of Fort Worth will implement a new program to help parents, teachers, catechists, and youth ministers effectively teach children to be aware of and to protect themselves from potential harm.

“Ensuring children’s safety is a challenging undertaking and requires more than adult awareness, education, and training,” Mathews explained.

To achieve that, Empowering God’s Children® (EGC) offers a different approach than the program the diocese previously used, he added.

“This is really a safety program,” Mathews said. “The key is to make sure that our children understand there are certain risks out there. This role, especially for younger children, is focused on teaching some basic, easy principles, guidelines, and simple rules they can use as tools so they can protect themselves.

“We want to make them watchful and aware — but not afraid of anyone,” he added. “We don’t want to generate that fear.”

Mathews explained that EGC works in partnership with parents, beginning with their permission.

“The Church has always

affirmed that parents have the duty and the right to be the first and principal educators of their children,” he said. “We supplement that.”

Mathews wants parents and guardians to understand that the message and materials are appropriate for each age group “so we’re not using language or teaching principles to kindergarteners that wouldn’t be appropriate for their age and their development.”

He said the crux of the program is reflected in its name because it is empowering children to be aware, to say “No,” and then tell a trusted adult.

“Children need to know they can rely on their own sense of what feels okay and what they’re comfortable or not comfortable with. And if they’re not comfortable with something that was said, a touch, or a particular environment, they need to say ‘No’ and then talk openly about it with a trusted adult.”

Mathews said talking about personal space and personal boundaries is a large part of the EGC curriculum. He explained that boundaries change over time as children grow and develop, so the conversation with high school students will be completely different than with elementary students.

He stressed that EGC is neither sex education nor another version of the Adult Safe Environment Awareness training required of all diocesan and parish staff and volunteers.

“If a parent has seen the adult program, they might be concerned

that this will be too powerful, scary, or too strong for a child. But this is not the same program. It’s a very specific children’s program that is age appropriate.”

If parents are not comfortable with their children participating in EGC, they may opt out and still receive materials to teach their children at home.

“We honor and respect that because they know their children better than we do,” he said.

The curriculum, which is also available in Spanish, is divided into four age groups: grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Though the same concept is taught every year, students receive entirely new and different lessons and activities each year.

“In the previous program ... students were seeing the same thing three years in a row and it was wearing out the kids and wearing out the adults,” Mathews noted.

Mathews also said the new program will be easy to deliver because lesson plans are detailed, specific, and include 5- to 11-minute videos introducing each topic in a non-threatening way.

Lesson leaders and even parents may not be sure about how to introduce a sensitive topic, so the videos serve as an icebreaker to help start discussion, exercises, and activities.

An overview of all program information and instructional content is available to parents “so they can be aware of it, be comfortable with it, and further engage their child about it in conversation,”

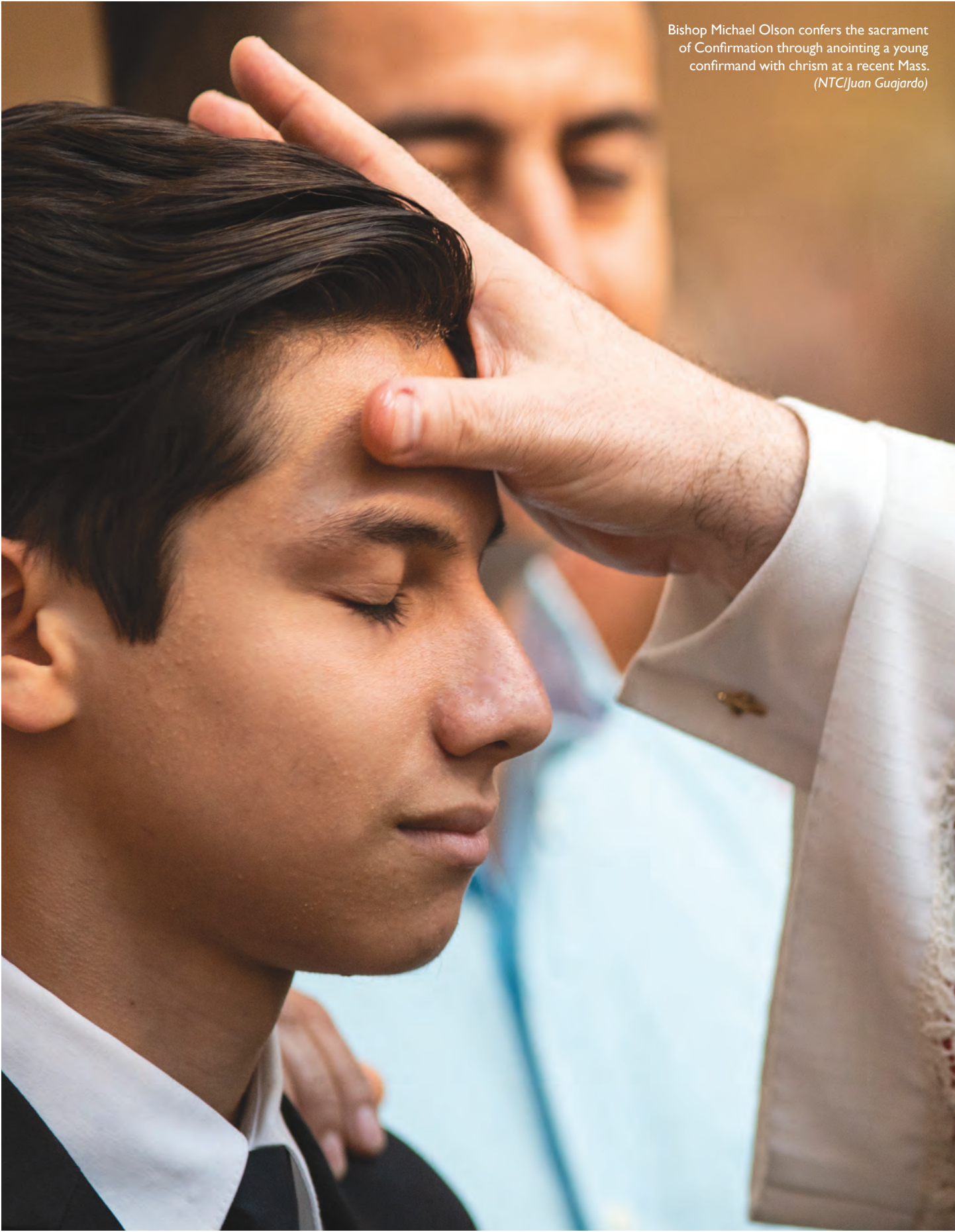
Mathews said. ✚

LEARN MORE

Learn more about the program. Visit FWDioc.org/safe-environment and click on ‘Empowering God’s Children®’



Bishop Michael Olson confers the sacrament of Confirmation through anointing a young confirmand with chrism at a recent Mass. (NTC/Juan Guajardo)



GIFTS FROM THE SPIRIT

How the sacrament of Confirmation and gifts of the Holy Spirit help build up the local Church

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

The last thing Laura Yokell Landry wanted to do after earning a diploma from the University of Dallas in 2014 was fly to Alaska as a missionary.

“I was thinking about my student loans and how I was going to pay them off,” admitted the psychology major. “I wanted to go into the corporate world right after college.”

But God had other plans for the new graduate.

An experienced camp counselor who worked her way up to a senior staff position at The Pines Catholic Camp in East Texas, Landry was asked to organize a new Catholic camp in Wasilla, Alaska from the ground up. She helped the director hire staff, schedule fun, faith-based activities, and lobbied to keep the Eucharist in the

campground’s chapel for Adoration opportunities.

“The Holy Spirit, guiding our next step, was the only way that camp was successful,” the 27-year-old said, noting St. Therese’s Camp continues to thrive as a popular recreation site. “God provided. He said, ‘Come trust me. I have this beautiful adventure for you.’”

Every time Landry hears those words, she knows the Holy Spirit is speaking to her. The seven gifts offered by the sacrament of Confirmation — wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety, and fear of the Lord — gave the cradle Catholic the strength to follow where God leads.

“I felt this warmth and knew my mission was just starting,” she said, remembering the Confirmation Mass celebrated by former Fort

Worth Bishop Kevin Vann, inside St. Bartholomew Church. “The Holy Spirit always guided my decisions.”

Today, the young wife and mother mentors more than 200 fifth through eighth graders as the middle school youth minister at Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville. Offered the position soon after returning from Alaska, Landry didn’t initially embrace the idea of guiding adolescents not much younger than she was. Thoughts of a business-oriented career still lingered.

“If God wanted me to take this position, I asked Him to make it abundantly clear and He did,” she explained, recalling how a young camper she mentored at The Pines enthusiastically welcomed Landry on her first day at Good Shepherd. “In that moment, there was

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Laura Landry, coordinator of middle school youth ministry at Good Shepherd Parish, speaks with a group of students about leadership during a Bible boot-camp session at the Colleyville church July 23. (NTC/Ben Torres)



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a realization of yes, I am a youth minister, and I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be."

WELCOME HIS INSPIRATION

Last year, Pope Francis dedicated a series of talks to the rite of Confirmation and how it enables the Body of Christ to grow in unity and missionary zeal.

Speaking to pilgrims in St. Peter's Square in 2018, he said the sacrament allows candidates to mature in faith and become a gift to others.

"It is precisely the Holy Spirit who de-centers us from our 'I' in order to open ourselves to the 'we' of the Christian community, as well as to society," the

pontiff told a general audience. "As Christians, we are not the center. We are an instrument to give to others."

In closing, he urged Confirmation candidates not to "cage the Holy Spirit" but to welcome and use His inspiration.

"May the Holy Spirit grant each of us the apostolic courage of communicating the Gospel, with words and works, to all we meet on our path," Pope Francis urged.

BE MY INSTRUMENT

Referred to often in the Old and New Testaments, the Holy Spirit is symbolized with familiar imagery — wind, doves, and tongues of fire.

"I'd describe it as a warm feeling that overcomes you or a sudden realization

— a shift," said Ben Briones, sharing his experience. "When I felt God's presence, there was a sense of peace, a calmness that overcomes out of nowhere. I think that's another way you can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit."

The youth minister at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton remembered feeling excited and proud on his Confirmation day.

"I had an intellectual understanding of my faith, but I didn't have a conversion in my heart until I was a young adult," confessed Briones, who struggled with a broken heart and bitter feelings toward God after a college romance ended.

Friends helped by encouraging Briones to attend an ACTS retreat. He went, reluctantly.



Immaculate Conception Parish Youth Minister Ben Briones felt the guidance of the Holy Spirit when he made the decision to become a youth minister. (NTC/Ben Torres)

Organized by a group of men from Immaculate Conception, the weekend included personal testimonies from retreat leaders. The University of North Texas music major empathized with their heartfelt stories.

“The community aspect of the retreat makes you realize you’re not alone in your hardships. God hasn’t left you,” the 35-year-old observed. “That was an eye-opener for me and I wanted to make certain God was in my life.”

An accomplished pianist, guitarist, and drummer, Briones planned to become a full-time music teacher after graduation. His rekindled faith, and a job opening

in youth ministry, made him rethink that decision.

“I felt the Holy Spirit telling me that weekend, ‘be my instrument,’” the musician said, explaining the message’s dual meaning: “God gives us talents and gifts to share with others to bring them closer to Christ. Using my musical gifts in the Church was a way I could be God’s instrument.”

Director of the parish teen choir and youth ministry for 14 years, Briones watched former youth group members grow into faith-filled adults who now serve the next generation.

“It’s great to see the seeds that were

planted fully bloom to become these amazing volunteers,” he said. “It’s rewarding.”

EVERYTHING CHANGED

When Wanda Styrsky married her husband, Jerry, in 1979, the Southern Baptist knew nothing about the Catholic Church. After four or five weeks of private instruction the following year, she received her first Communion and Confirmation at the 7 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Andrew Parish. Raising children in the same religion was a consideration for the

Continued on Page 37



Andres Bautista, a parishioner and volunteer at St. Joseph Parish in Arlington, chose his older sister Isamady as his Confirmation sponsor. (NTC/Juan Guajardo)

NOT A “COMING OF AGE”

Sometimes misunderstood as equivalent to a Jewish bar mitzvah, Confirmation is not a coming of age celebration. Nor does it mark the end of a person’s religious education — indeed, that is never outgrown!

Rather, the sacrament of Confirmation is about God generously giving a gift to His beloved children.

What exactly does He give us via Confirmation? Well, just as Baptism instills new life, Communion nourishes life, and Reconciliation restores our spiritual life, Confirmation strengthens our life by the Holy Spirit (CCC

1302-1303). The Holy Spirit “enriches” us with His special strength and completes our baptismal grace.

Jesus promises us this outpouring of the Spirit several times in sacred Scripture. We see an example of this fulfillment in *Acts of the Apostles*. When the Apostles are filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, they began to courageously proclaim “the mighty works of God” (*Acts 2:1-11*).

Similarly, Confirmation brings an increase in baptismal grace. The *Catechism* tells us how the Spirit enriches us:

1. It roots us more deeply as children of God, making us cry “Abba! Father!”
2. It unites us more firmly to Christ.
3. It makes our bond with the Church more perfect.
4. It gives us the strength to spread and defend the faith.
5. It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord).



Wanda Styrsky (left) leads a daily Rosary at St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth. (NTC/Jayne Donahue)

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mixed-faith couple.

“I converted for all the wrong reasons, but when I came into the Church, I brought my husband back into the Church,” explained the mother of four grown daughters.

Formation came in gradual steps. Having her children in Catholic schools and belonging to a family-based Catholic charismatic renewal group deepened her understanding of the faith. But the St. Patrick parishioner credits her first real conversion experience to courses taken at the University of Dallas’ Biblical School.

“It was about delving into Scripture and finding out how the story unfolds,” Styrsky said. “And I wanted

to know where I fit in the story.”

The former nurse and Catholic school teacher described her new-found spirituality and love for Catholicism as “a slow kindling fire” that ignited a few years later, when her husband was seriously injured in an ATV rollover accident. On the way to the trauma center, the anxious wife reached into her purse to pull out a rosary.

“For the next eight months, it rarely left my hand,” she revealed. “When other family incidents occurred, [my grip on the] rosary got tighter.”

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Styrsky felt called to pray the Rosary publicly. The sites for her devotion

varied — a hospital lobby, restaurants, Costco, a library. Eventually, she began

leading the 11:30 a.m. daily Rosary at St. Patrick Cathedral and people began giving her prayer intentions, books, or cards.

“Sometimes they just want to sit and talk. What I came to understand is this: God chooses us. That’s the working of the Holy Spirit,” Styrsky shared thoughtfully. “When I started doing this I changed — everything changed.”

Another twist in her faith journey occurred after reading Dorothy Day’s autobiography, a book suggested by her spiritual director. A convert and activist who co-founded the Catholic Worker Movement, Day established special homes for the needy until her death in 1980.


Earlier this year, Styrsky joined the would-be saint’s Cause for Canonization when she was asked to transcribe some of Day’s recently unsealed letters and journals. The Texan is one of 100 people entrusted with the task.

“To be declared of heroic virtue, everything she wrote has to be read to

Continued on Page 38

MORE PHOTOS

View our gallery of Confirmation photos by visiting NorthTexasCatholic.org and clicking on ‘Photo Gallery.’





Eighth-year seminarian Sam Maul (left) prays during the opening night of the V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry which was hosted by the Diocese of Fort Worth in September 2018. (NTC/Ben Torres)

From Page 37

make sure there is nothing heretical,” said Styrsky, who swore an oath in front of Father Richard Welch, judicial vicar for the Archdiocese of New York, to complete the assignment diligently and discreetly.

Placing her hand on the Book of Gospels, she felt blessed.

“When I did that, I could feel the Holy Spirit working,” she added contemplatively. “You have those moments when you know you’re exactly where God wants you to be.”

A DECISION STRENGTHENED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Graces received from the Holy Spirit started the process of preparing Sam Maul’s heart for discernment to the priesthood.

“Confirmation is the first thing I remember being excited about,” recalled the 26-year-old who just finished his eighth year of seminary studies. “There was no

more waiting to live out my faith.”

He received the sacrament inside St. Michael Church from former Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann, along with 75 other teens. “I remember thinking, if you’re here, and you’re excited to move forward in your Catholic faith, what is it that you have to give?”

His answer was life changing. “Everything about me is what I had to give to God — my intellect, will, desires,” Maul said. “That was the work of the Holy Spirit preparing me for priesthood.”

Encouraged to consider a religious vocation by Holy Cross Father Dan Parrish at a University of Notre Dame summer youth camp, he contacted the diocesan vocation office while still in high school and began attending monthly discernment meetings hosted by Father Kyle Walterscheid. The L.D. Bell High School graduate entered the seminary right after his senior year.

Through Baptism, we become part of the body of Christ. The sacrament of

Confirmation strengthens us for that life through the gifts of knowledge, fortitude, understanding, and other virtues given through the divine grace of the Holy Spirit.

“At any moment during my formation or discernment when I felt I had a firm understanding, piety, or sound judgment, I attribute this to the Holy Spirit,” Maul acknowledged. “Any decision I’ve made is strengthened and formed by the Holy Spirit.”

The seminarian advises other young people to consider serving the will of God by asking the question: What did God create me to be?

“In discerning our vocation, the Holy Spirit takes an active role,” he continued. “He is constantly with us and allowing us to grow just as He’s constantly with the Church, allowing the Church to grow.”

Take the time for prayer in planning a future, Maul advised.

“That’s the most beautiful place you can start to discern a vocation.” 🇺🇸



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Making the Team

Record-setting runner creates community of women who train with their body, heart, and soul



NTC/Jayme Donahue

By Susan Moses

In a matter of days, she will represent the United States in an international ultramarathon competition. She earned a Guinness World Record in a running event this summer. But Elizabeth Northern thinks the greatest gift God has given her — and the gift that has pushed her out of her comfort zone — is being a mentor to other female competitive runners.

Almost three years ago, Northern launched Fort Worth Distance Project, a community of women that pushes the pace while supporting each other.

The mother of two admitted being the founder and coordinator of the group was a stretch, because she's usually a "behind-the-scenes worker." However, she said,

"Realizing that a gift is there, you've just got to go with it and trust God has put it there for you and for others for a reason."

The 15 or so women composing the Fort Worth Distance Project all have their reasons. Many hope to make the qualifying time to compete in the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials in 2020. Others have different races and distances in their sights. Although racing brought the women together, it's the personal, and sometimes spiritual, support that sets the community apart.

Northern, who was "born and raised at Holy Family" Parish in Fort Worth, explained, "Sometimes we pray out loud on the run. If there's something we're working through personally, or [we're] in a tough spot in a race or in a workout, we pray about it. It's a special bond. That spiritual

element takes it up a level."

St. Andrew parishioner Stephanie Thompson recently joined the Fort Worth Distance Project. She plans to return to competitive running after having a baby this spring. The new mother has found the community of women drives each other forward while lifting each other up, and that begins with Northern.

"Liz will sacrifice her own workout to circle back and make certain everyone gets back okay," said Thompson.

While she attended Holy Family Catholic School and Nolan Catholic High School, Northern's athletic accomplishments were on stage — she studied dance for 15 years. She didn't realize she enjoyed running, or had a talent for it, until she joined the cross-country team as a walk-on

at Trinity University in San Antonio.

Oh yes, about that talent.

Northern has won every event of Fort Worth's premier running competition, the Cowtown, which is held each year at the end of February. In various years, she's broken the finish line ribbon of the 5K, 10K, half marathon, marathon, and ultramarathon. She has set course records in four of those events, and her records for the 5K and ultramarathon still stand.

Northern rises at 4:30 a.m. to run so that during daylight hours she can focus on her family and work as a research analyst for Tarrant County College. The pre-dawn workouts with her running group help her recharge and be a better wife and mother, she said.

The effort is Northern's, but the glory is God's. "My ability to run is nothing I've been able to do on my own. It's definitely been something that God has given me," she said.

When Northern became pregnant with her daughter in 2016, she was concerned that her ability to run competitively would be diminished afterwards.

The elite runner remembered, "Faith helped me during pregnancy. I have had to learn a lot about the word 'grace,' and giving and receiving grace, especially self-grace.

"The human body is incredible. I encourage other women, especially postpartum women, 'be gentle with yourself.' It may not come back when you want it, but it may. You have done something incredible. Cherish that time, because it will go by so fast," she continued.

Having picked up the pace again, Northern pushed her daughter and son, now 2½ and 1½, to earn a Guinness World Record on June 1. Literally. Equipped with water and snacks,

the toddlers enjoyed a comfortable ride while their mother set the world record for running a 10K while pushing a double stroller. Even with a wheel adjustment at the first mile, she crossed the finish line in 41:20, a pace of 6:39 per mile.

Her family will also be present when Northern represents the United States in the 2019 International Association of Ultrarunners 50K World Championship in Brasov, Romania on Sept. 1.

Qualifying for the American team was a walk — well, a run — in the park. After dropping out of the Cowtown 50K the weekend before, Northern registered for the USA Track and Field National 50K Championship two days before the March 3 race, flew to New York the day before, and won the event.

Representing the United States in an international competition "is a dream come true. It seemed like such a long shot, especially after kids, and it's more special now that I get to share it with my family. Sometimes it feels like a dream still," said the 32-year-old.

With the international competition nearing, the driven runner has trained with extra intensity this summer. Sometimes during a hard workout, she prays the Rosary, she said.

Running often makes Northern feel closer to God and the community she mentors. She recalled, "There are some moments where I honestly get into such a meditative state, that I may not even realize an entire mile has gone by. In those moments, I think life's incredible. It's made me really appreciate these women in my life, who have helped me through postpartum, helped me with two kids, and helped me achieve my goals." 🇺🇸



Northern placed first in the USATF National 50K race, qualifying her for the national team. (photo courtesy/Greater Long Island Running Club)

Northern with her children Davis (left) and Penny. The trio set a Guinness record for running a 10K with a double stroller. (NTC/Jayne Donahue)





AS ONE WHO SERVES

Memorial of St. Gregory the Great
September 3, 2019

Start by using the steps below to reflect on the Scripture verse. Then read Callie's meditation, reflecting on it slowly.

LECTIO



First you deliberately read the passage, noting 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.

THE SCRIPTURE

GOSPEL READING FOR SEPTEMBER 3, 2019
MEMORIAL OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

An argument broke out among the Apostles about which of them should be regarded as the greatest.

Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them and those in authority over them are addressed as 'Benefactors'; but among you it shall not be so.

Rather, let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the servant.

For who is greater: the one seated at table or the one who serves?"

Is it not the one seated at table?

I am among you as the one who serves.

It is you who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom; and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

— Luke 22:24-30

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THE REFLECTION

Christ is made present in many ways among His people, and in a particular way through His priests, as they are called to be conformed to Him. Through these men, Christ stands and walks among us as the One who serves. Such a great responsibility rests on the shoulders of those whose vocation is to be “conformed to Christ the head” — the same head of Christ who willingly ascended Golgotha, bore the crown of thorns, and endured the spittle and ridicule of the unmerciful.

Through the sacrament of Holy Orders, they are called to be conformed to His sacrifice on the cross in a unique way. In this spirit, St. Gregory was called out of the solitude of the monastery, out of the support of the community of his brother monks. However, he agreed to serve the Church with his gifts. He sacrificed His own desires in service to the Church. But once he was called, he put his remarkable energy to work.

In doing so he instituted many reforms, from emptying the papal reserve to give to the poor, to ensuring enforcement of disciplinary measures. Gregory even made some changes to the prayers and music of the Mass. He is remembered especially for his contribution to our musical heritage with Gregorian Chant. Certainly, these changes were difficult and even painful for some to execute.

The Church prays for the Lord to send His people good pastors, like St. Gregory, and the Church prays for their continued faithfulness to God and strength of character. She prays on behalf of these pastors for she knows the struggles will be many; they will find enemies from outside its walls and resistance within its boundaries.

We are all called to live a life of sacrificial love. Those called to the sacrament of holy orders and to consecrated life are in their own way called to do so on behalf of Christ and His Church. Of these, pastors are given an additional charge of caring for the souls of the faithful.

The Church knows from experience that good saints, be they pastors or not, do not make everyone happy. Their work and their presence can often be challenging and convicting. But neither saints nor pastors are given to the Church for her comfort and ease. Their ultimate purpose, which we all share with them, is to be happy with God in heaven and to bring as many others as they can along the way.

But this task is not easy. This work is often unwelcome to those who do not wish the kingdom of God to be truly present in the world. But a faithful person is one who stands by Christ through His trials as a sign of their covenantal relationship with Christ through Baptism. ✚

Callie Nowlin, MTS, is a convert turned Director of Religious Education, catechist, and blogger with a passion for Scripture and helping others on their journey toward Christ.



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Measured by the Month

FEED THE MARRIAGE: The best way to strengthen your marriage, according to Andy, is to attend Mass together, which they do three times each week.

Also, the Bezners celebrate their “monthiversary” each month on the 29th. They thank Christ for 415 months (34 years) of marriage. Andy said, “Working together and building your relationship with Christ at the center will lead to a happy and blessed life.”

THE GREATEST GIFT: The Bezners have two grown children and two grandchildren. Andy advised, “As parents, the greatest love you can give a child is your time.”

SETTING PRIORITIES: Susie said, “It’s our responsibility, first and foremost, to do all that is necessary to get our soul to heaven, then our spouse’s soul, and then our children’s souls. Everything we do should lead us towards this realization: heaven is our true home.”

A SACRAMENT OF SERVICE: The couple serves as Eucharistic ministers, RCIA instructors, and more. Susie explained, “Our Catholic faith is an occupation for a lifetime, and we try to listen to God’s call for us as ministers in whatever capacity is needed. Now as grandparents, we see our role as helping to pass our Catholic faith onto them.” 🇹🇽



THEY ARE: Andy and Susie Bezner, with son and daughter-in-law Nicholas and Briley Bezner, at St. Peter Parish in Lindsay. (NTC/Ben Torres)



Community leaders from North Texas were introduced to CCFW's mission of eradicating poverty. From left, Desiree Tension of CCFW; Dimanche Brewer of BRIDGE; Jade Tinner of CCFW; Willie Ranking of LVTRise; Michael Grace, President of CCFW, and his wife, Elizabeth Grace. (CCFW photo/Kelvin Rausaw)

Bridge to a Greater Community

Eighty-eight community leaders gathered in North Richland Hills on June 26, making a deep dive into the inspiring world of Catholic Charities Fort Worth while enjoying dinner, jazz violin, and sparkling conversation.

Over \$12,000 was raised at the agency's INCLUSION: Diverse Leaders Dinner and Fundraiser, as representatives from several North Texas faith communities, nonprofit agencies, foundations, and organizations such as BRIDGE Fort Worth (Black Resourceful Innovators Developing Generations of Excellence) were introduced to CCFW's mission of eradicating poverty.

A highlight of the evening's program was the sharing of CCFW clients' accounts of the assistance they received from the agency. One such story highlighted a single mother of two who fled her home in Port Arthur after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey and found a happy and healthy new life in North Texas with the help of

her Catholic Charities navigator. Another story shared was about a client who received aid through CCFW's transportation services that allowed her to obtain full-time employment and become financially self-sufficient.

Event coordinator Jade Tinner, who serves as CCFW's Major Gifts Officer, called the evening "a great success," as she reflected upon the purpose of the gathering. "This event was dedicated to the encouragement of multicultural leadership in the fight to end poverty in our local communities," she explained.

"We want to continually draw more leaders into the mission of Catholic Charities, to tap into a new donor base, and to form new partnerships with people who may not have necessarily known much about us," she continued.

The dinner provided an opportunity to share information about CCFW's outreach to all — regardless of religious affiliation, added Tinner. "It was exciting to see the

conversations that were sparked, and the interest in Catholic Charities that was generated through the stories that were shared."

One guest, Zerius Brittain, an entrepreneur and philanthropist who serves on the Board of Directors for Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, said that he appreciated his first opportunity to learn about CCFW. Brittain agreed that he was "riveted" by the stories he heard of the agency's clients' successes. "I was inspired by Catholic Charities' message of creating opportunity, eradicating poverty, and transforming people's lives," he said. "I'm always interested in learning more about and supporting organizations that are truly effective in making a positive impact. I definitely plan to stay connected to Catholic Charities, now that I'm aware of their mission and their outreach."

To learn more about Catholic Charities Fort Worth, call 817-534-0814 or visit CatholicCharitiesFortWorth.org. 🇺🇸





A Man with a Mission

HE IS: Father Wilson Lucka, TOR, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Azle. He was previously parochial vicar of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Carrollton.

ORDAINED A PRIEST: Fr. Wilson was ordained May 22, 2002 at his home parish, Our Lady of Fatima, in Kerala, India.

GROWING UP: He was raised with his five sisters and two brothers on a tea and coffee farm. He served as an altar boy and remembers praying often with his parents at a nearby monastery. When school ended in 10th grade, he entered a Franciscan seminary because two friends encouraged him.

MISSIONARY MAN:

After a year of formation in his hometown,

the 16-year-old took his first train trip. He rode the rails for three days with 11 companions and the seminary director to reach Behar in northern India.

“I joined to be a missionary. In this missionary congregation, you go to North India. To go to North India was to go to a different world altogether.”

VOWS: Fr. Wilson made his first profession of vows as a Franciscan on May 31, 1993. “We take vows of obedience, chastity and poverty. But we have everything — that’s the beauty of these vows. There’s nothing we lack. By God’s grace, everything is in abundance.”

LESSONS FROM THE MISSION FIELDS: “Being a missionary priest, you are open to different cultures, open to different languages (he speaks seven!), you are exposed to different parts of the world. You come across the beauty of every culture and group.”

In 2018, when he learned of his assignment to the United States, “I thought about the language, about the culture, that all these things are going to be different. But I was not so anxious or apprehensive about any of this.”

TWO FIRSTS: In his 17 years in the priesthood, Fr. Wilson has been a seminary professor, a school principal, and an administrator for his religious order. This is his first time to be a full-time pastor, and he is the first pastor of Holy Trinity, formerly a mission of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. “It’s new for them and new for me also.”

BEST THING ABOUT BEING A PRIEST: “Saying Mass every day.” And second best? “I meet so many people, come close to so many people. You come into their lives, you come to know about them.”

THE TAKEAWAY: Fr. Wilson wants parishioners to know “God is loving. God is merciful. He is not someone up above, but someone here in concrete life situations.” 🇺🇸



NTC/Juan Guajardo



No Vacation from Your Vocation

One of the most helpful pieces of advice I received during my time in the seminary was this: “There is no vacation from your vocation.” It meant that I was to keep going to daily Mass, keep up my prayer life, and always remember that I was still a seminarian, someone aspiring to the priesthood. These words of advice have always kept me grounded during my summer break or vacation time with my family and friends.

This idea is not limited to just priests, seminarians, or religious — the universal call to holiness can be applied to everyone’s vocation. “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (*Matthew 5:48*).

I remember growing up, my parents would reintroduce us to our daily school schedule two weeks before school began again after the long summer break. Wise parenting, I know. By the time school started, my brothers and I did not complain about having to get up early or being tired. We were ready for school to begin.

This call to perfection, as Christ tells us, can be very daunting and very challenging because who of us can be as perfect as God? But fear not, we have helpers and the Holy Spirit to help us on this journey. Like my parents did with me, the Church offers us wisdom and teaching

from people who have lived out this calling of holiness: we call them saints.

The saints often tell us that one must have a close relationship with our Lord through prayer, sacred Scripture, and the sacraments, but mostly Adoration of the Eucharist. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, “The Eucharist is ‘the source and summit’ of Christian life, the other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it” (1324).



Fr. Nghia Nguyen

The Eucharist gives us nourishment for our journey by giving us the grace to remember what Jesus Christ has done for us and continues to do for us at every Mass. The love He shows us on the cross is to be imitated through our day-to-day activities: in our encounters at home, the workplace, and public places.

Another sacrament by which we encounter God’s divine love, which helps us towards perfection, is Reconciliation. This sacrament is where many of the faithful experience God’s mercy and healing. The road to perfection should be rooted in humility, where one not only admits one’s brokenness but is willing to rely on the blessings from God to help overcome our weakness of sin.

The Lord continues to reveal Himself to us if we allow Him to enter our life.

We do this through prayer and other devotions such as the Rosary, the Divine Office, and sacred Scripture. These, like the sacraments, nourish us and give us the discipline we need, so that during our busy lives we can slow down and ask for help from our Blessed Mother Mary, the saints, and God Himself.

Through these preparations one may find God and develop a closer relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ, but also ask, in prayer, what is our vocation in life? For those who are still discerning what God is calling them to do, ask the Lord, “what are you asking of me? Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. How do you want me to serve you and my brothers and sisters?” And for those who have accepted their calling, ask for the continued grace from God to keep faithful to the call He has given you in life.

There is “no vacation from your vocation” or from striving for holiness in life, but with help and grace from God and the Holy Spirit, you can continue to grow in holiness and have a more loving relationship with our Lord through the sacraments and the Eucharist. 🇺🇸

Ordained on May 21, 2016, Father Nghia Nguyen serves as the parochial vicar of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Keller and as Vocations Liaison with the Vocations Office.



The Fast Life

In his work *Apology*, Plato describes something Socrates once said: “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Based on this phrase, most of my life has been a waste. Let me explain.

As I get older the days, weeks, months, and even years seem to fly by faster. It’s not uncommon for me to realize that a week or month has gone by and I barely remember what happened. Days blend together to form one long continuous meandering existence, rather than individual, specific, and intentionally experienced moments.

Taking Socrates’ words to heart, slowing down and reflecting on each day can be helpful on many levels. First, it allows us to pay attention to the events and people we’ve encountered. Second, it opens the way for us to find and cultivate meaning in our daily lives. Third, it creates opportunities to critically assess the day to celebrate the good and discover areas of needed growth. And finally, it facilitates the recognition of the constant presence of God in our life.

St. Ignatius believed so strongly in the importance of examining our life that he made it one of the rules of prayer for the Jesuit order, requiring that Jesuits practice the Examen twice daily — at noon and at the end of the day.

The Ignatian version of the daily Examen is done in five steps:

1. Place yourself in God’s presence.
2. Review the day in gratitude, giving thanks for all God has done for you today.

3. Pay attention to your emotions this day. Note where you felt God’s presence.
4. Express sorrow for the times you failed to follow God’s will.
5. Look toward tomorrow and ask God to give you the grace to do His will.

Down through the ages many other versions of the daily Examen have been created and I tend to use them all from time to time. Here is a sampling:

“Pray As You Go” is an app that has several pre-recorded Examen prayers that follow Ignatius’ five steps in a meditative way with a mix of prayer, meditation prompts, and music. This is a very relaxing and quiet way to do this spiritual exercise.

The “3 by 5” Examen is a quick and easy way to review the day. First, you give thanks for five things that have happened in your day. Then, think of five ways you failed in your day, asking for God’s mercy. Lastly, look forward to the rest of your day, thinking of five things you need God’s help with. If it helps, you can write the 15 items on a 3-by-5 inch index card.

CPR Method is another quick guide:

C = Claim your blessings. Reflect on the good things that happened to you today, and explicitly recognize God’s hand in them.

P = Pinpoint victories and losses that you had today. Celebrate and repent as needed.

R = Renew your loving commitment to

Christ.

End with an Our Father, a Hail Mary, and the sign of the cross.

I have been doing a daily Examen for a while now and it has impacted my life in several ways. First and foremost has been realizing how many blessings come my way every day. Each version of the Examen prayer involves gratitude. It’s not as if I was not aware that God blesses me, rather I just seldom took the time to recognize

my blessings and thank God for them.

Another fruit from this spiritual practice has been ending the day with God on my mind. With Him beside me I look back on my day and then look forward to the next day. This might seem insignificant, but for me it really helps me stay connected to Jesus. I am thinking about Him as my day ends, and this helps me awaken with Him on my mind to tackle another day.

But most of all there is a distinct peace of mind that I am no longer twiddling away days, months, and years. Each day is an opportunity to experience God’s wonder and be challenged to grow deeper in holiness. The “examined” life is not only worth living, it is living worthily. 🇺🇸



Jeff Hedglen

Jeff Hedglen is the Campus Minister at University of Texas at Arlington.

Teaching Children Boundaries

We all recognize that adults are the primary protectors of children. But we can, and should, make children aware that they are allowed to say “no” when they feel that their personal boundaries are not being respected. The more that children learn about boundaries and personal safety issues, the better they are able to help protect themselves and others.

Typically, sexual abuse of a child starts with boundary violations.

What are boundaries? The personal boundaries that we set for ourselves are typically established during our early childhood and are usually based upon the adults who teach us and serve as role models. Boundaries can be physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual – drawing the line for what we find acceptable or unacceptable and increasing our ability to interact with others in a healthy, safe, and comfortable manner. Some boundaries are based on an individual’s perceptions, personal history, culture, and concerns.

Physical boundaries determine who may touch you, how much they may touch, and where they may touch. Examples of violating a child’s physical boundaries may include wrestling, or tickling; “accidental” inappropriate touching; extended hugs or full-contact hugs.

Psychological boundaries determine the rules you will follow and the actions you will

and will not do. Examples of violating a child’s psychological boundaries may include ridiculing the teachings of a child’s parents, allowing children to do things against their parents’ wishes, asking a child to keep secrets from his/her parents, speaking graphically about sexual matters, or telling dirty jokes.



Richard Mathews

Emotional boundaries are how close you feel to someone, how much time you spend with them, and what personal information you share with them. Examples of violating a child’s emotional boundaries may include excessive emailing, calling, or texting; acting possessive of a child; or getting involved in many of the child’s activities.

Spiritual boundaries are the values and beliefs that we hold internally, what we expect of ourselves, such as integrity and ethics. Examples of violating a child’s spiritual boundaries may include asking a child to lie, ridiculing the beliefs or faith of a child or his/her parents, or forcing beliefs on a child that are inconsistent with what he/she is being otherwise taught.

Discuss boundaries with children and help them to understand that you support their personal integrity and that they should speak up when others make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Follow these principles in discussing boundaries with children: First, listen to the child’s input as to what (and who) makes them uncomfortable. Second, keep the rules simple, for example: who can touch

the child, how much they can touch, and where they can touch. Third, give specific examples and descriptions of what is and is not acceptable behavior. For example, “safe touches” are touches appropriate for the particular relationship: doctors giving stitches, mom kissing a child’s forehead “good night,” high-fiving a teammate, and a dentist cleaning teeth. “Unsafe touches” include such things as hitting, punching, kicking, bullying. Fourth, emphasize and encourage the child to have self-respect and confidence in speaking up when uncomfortable. Finally, emphasize that the child should be watchful and aware, but that doesn’t mean being afraid of everyone.

Remember, one conversation isn’t enough when it comes to helping children to establish and maintain appropriate safety boundaries. Physical and touching boundaries are only the beginning. As children grow older, topics of concern include safety away from home, bullying, self-defense, pornography, social media and internet use, personal information privacy, dating, and more.

Through these conversations we not only help protect our children from abuse, but we also empower them to be role models and examples to other children. 🇺🇸

Richard Mathews is Director of Safe Environment for the Diocese of Fort Worth. A former prosecuting attorney, he also served as the General Counsel for the Boy Scouts of America and for Trail Life USA.



THE MAKING OF A SAINT



Marlon De La Torre is the Department Director of Catechesis and Evangelization for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

How is one called to be a saint? It is a question that can simultaneously inject joy and fear in anyone because it involves embracing a life of holiness in Christ and renouncing all near occasions of sin.

The *Catechism* defines a saint as one “who leads a life in union with God through the grace of Christ and receives the reward of eternal life.” As witnessed by the multitude of examples in the lives of the saints, a life of holiness is one immersed in prayer, sacrifice, suffering both physical and spiritual, fidelity to Church teaching, and if called, martyrdom.

As faithful members of the body of Christ we are part of the communion of saints by our faithful witness of the Gospel and desire to seek an intimate union with Christ. Our identity as part of the communion of saints is tied to everything that is holy. The culmination of our identity as part of the communion of saints is the reception of the body and blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Hence, the grace-filled lives of the saints owe and direct their identity to Christ, and we participate in this communion by our active participation in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. May all the saints pray for us!

? Who is a saint?

When we look at the examples of the Apostles, or the early Church fathers, or somebody as famous as St. Francis of Assisi, we see a common thread or bond amongst all of them. They desired Christ above all things and were willing to sacrifice for that love of Christ and to serve in His name.

Another key distinction of a saint is someone who desires grace over sin, someone who desires virtue over the calamities that lead you away from Christ. So, we look at the saints as really wonderful people who led extraordinary lives from ordinary means and really brought Christ to the forefront in everyday living.

? How do we know that God wants us to communicate with the saints?

God wants us to communicate with the saints through Christ Himself because it is Christ who really has the order, and the structure, and the governance over all saints in the Church. Christ exists — and He exists continuously in the holy sacrifice of the Mass and the choirs of angels and the saints are always there. This is how God wants to communicate with us entirely and wholly: through His choir of angels and saints because they're all directed to Christ Himself. And what a beautiful way to have this symphony of faith.



WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Watch the full video and find out more about this and other faith topics through the following:

- ▶ northtexascatholic.org/video-gallery
- ▶ fwdioc.org/adult-faith-formation
- ▶ fwdioc.org/st-junipero-serra-institute

? What is the process for the Vatican to declare that a person is a saint?

A group of people, typically from a diocese, will open up a cause for the person and that cause will involve a lot of historical evidence analyzing the life of the person. Were they actually heroic or virtuous in their actions in the Church? Were they Christ-like? What was their faith like? What was their devotion to the Church?

So, all that is investigated over a long period of time. If it's found that this person led a heroic life, was virtuous, was really holy, and that there were people around this person that were touched by his or her model of holiness, then the cause would move forward to recognize a person as a "venerable" — a title indicating that they lived a life of virtue and sanctity. From that point, that person would be under a continuing investigation to determine if indeed he or she could be declared a saint.

The next step would be a "blessed." At that point you would need to attribute a miraculous event to the person through intercessory prayer.

Typically, there is either an unexplained healing or other phenomenon that can only be attributed to the venerable's intercession. So, that's where a higher status for that individual from venerable to a blessed would occur.

Then, to be canonized a saint — a second miracle would need to be deemed credible by the Vatican to elevate this person to the communion of saints.

Now all this has to be done via an investigation. You have doctors, professionals, and theologians who are objective and not directly tied to the individual that would investigate all these phenomena. If it's affirmed to be true, then the Vatican, through its Congregation for the Causes of Saints, would declare sainthood for this particular person.

In general, that's how the process develops in terms of determining who would be considered a venerable, a blessed, and a saint. 🇺🇸

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

To Report Misconduct:

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

- ▶ Call the Victim Assistance Hotline at 817-602-5119.
- ▶ Call the Director of Safe Environment at 817-945-9334 and leave a message.
- ▶ Call the Chancellor of the diocese at 817-945-9315.

To Report Abuse or Suspected Abuse:

If you suspect abuse of a child, elder, or vulnerable adult, or abuse has been disclosed to you,

- ▶ Call the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (CPS) at 800-252-5400.
- ▶ Immediately report the alleged abuse to your supervisor, priest, or principal and submit the Confidential Notice of Concern with CPS report information, contact information on all concerned, description of abuse, dates if known, and how you learned of the abuse.

For More Information: To learn more about our abuse prevention policies and programs, please visit fwdioc.org/safe-environment



DANDO . gracias



La Diócesis de Fort Worth celebra 50 años con una Misa en el Centro de Convenciones de Fort Worth, miércoles 21 de agosto. (NTC/Juan Guajardo)

Tres mil católicos se reúnen para celebrar el aniversario de oro de la Diócesis de Fort Worth



Por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

Después de viajar dos horas en el tráfico de la hora pico, los feligreses de la Parroquia de Santa María de Windthorst se unieron a la procesión de entrada en la del Centro de Convenciones de Fort Worth Arena portando el estandarte azul y blanco de su parroquia y esperaron pacientemente a que comenzara la Misa del aniversario de oro de la diócesis.

El grupo y miles de otros católicos del norte de Texas se reunieron el 21 de agosto para conmemorar que el Papa San Pablo VI estableció la Diócesis de Fort Worth hace 50 años. Desde entonces, la diócesis, que comprende 28 condados, ha florecido no sólo por el número de católicos, parroquias y escuelas, sino también por la rica diversidad cultural de su gente.

Al estar rodeada de otros fieles católicos procedentes de pequeñas comunidades agrícolas rurales, grandes áreas urbanas, hispanohablantes y de los que vestían el atuendo típico de sus tierras natales de Tonga, Vietnam o Ghana, Jean Berend no dejó pasar desapercibido el espíritu del momento.

La feligrés de Santa María declaró, “Esto es lo que somos nosotros. Ésta es nuestra fe y todos somos parte de ella”, al ver el numeroso grupo de 3,000 personas que asistieron a la celebración del jubileo de oro. “Somos católicos y estamos orgullosos de serlo. Deberíamos proclamarlo a viva voz”.

Aunque la diócesis se compone de diferentes ministerios y personas, la Eucaristía es un factor unificador, un punto que se hizo eco en el tema de la noche, “La Eucaristía nos hace Iglesia”.

“La Eucaristía es la presencia constante de Cristo”, dijo el Obispo Michael Olson a *North Texas Catholic*. “Tenemos tantas personas con muchos

dones y talentos, y una gran gracia en nuestra diversidad, pero en el fondo de todo está la unidad y comunión que Jesús nos ofrece en Sí mismo”.

“Cincuenta años es sólo una serie de ‘momentos actuales’”, señaló, haciendo referencia al aniversario histórico.

Al conocer a Dios íntimamente, la diócesis puede prepararse para el futuro que Cristo ha planeado para ella.

“Comenzamos la celebración de hoy en oración, acción de gracias y le pedimos al Señor que nos guíe”, agregó el Obispo Olson.

El crecimiento constante ha definido a la Diócesis de Fort Worth de 23,950 millas cuadradas desde sus comienzos. Cuando la Diócesis de Dallas-Fort Worth se dividió en dos entidades, sólo 75,000 católicos pertenecían a 44 parroquias en el norte de Texas. Hoy, la diócesis cuenta con 1.2 millones que se identifican como católicos.

Joe Culotta cree que su tío, el Obispo Joseph Cassata, fue designado como el primer líder de la nueva diócesis para estimular su crecimiento.

“Era realmente bueno en los negocios y creo que fue enviado aquí para desarrollar y ayudar a la comunidad católica a crecer”, dijo el residente de Houston que asistió a la Misa con otro pariente de Cassata, Dorann Fruia, y su esposo, Joe. “Recuerdo que me dijo: ‘Estoy aquí para hacer el trabajo de Dios y cuidar a la población católica’”.

Durante su mandato desde el 1969 hasta su jubilación en el 1980, el Obispo Cassata aprobó 12 nuevas parroquias a medida que la población católica aumentó a 93,500 fieles.

“Estaba interesado en la educación, en ayudar a los marginados y tenía una habilidad especial para llevarse bien con la gente”, recordó Culotta. “Cassata High School es una buena manera de honrarlo”.

El desfile de las banderas por los representantes de las 19 escuelas y 91 parroquias de la diócesis ayudó a que



los asistentes visualizaran cuán grande e inclusiva es la Iglesia local.

Isabel y Gabriel Velasco fueron elegidos para llevar la bandera de San Benito, una de las parroquias más nuevas.

Los jóvenes fueron elegidos específicamente porque “el Padre Karl Pikus quería que la gente supiera que no sólo los católicos mayores se sienten atraídos hacia la Misa en latín”, dijo el papá de los niños, Ferdinand Velasco. “Tenemos también muchas familias jóvenes en la parroquia”.

La breve historia de la Parroquia San Benito demuestra cuán rápido crece la diócesis. Pese a que fue inaugurada sólo en el 2015, sus dos Misas dominicales se llenan a capacidad cada semana.

“Pensamos que tomaría tiempo ponernos al día”, admitió Velasco, un miembro del coro gregoriano de la parroquia. “El crecimiento de la comunidad católica en el norte de Texas es exponencial y no se trata sólo del

Veintiún obispos de Texas y alrededor de EE. UU. celebran 50 años con una misa en el Centro de Convenciones de Fort Worth, el miércoles 21 de agosto de 2019. (NTC/Rodger Mallison)



crecimiento de la población. Tenemos muchas personas que son recibidas en la Iglesia durante la Vigilia Pascual también”.

La música conmovedora del coro español de la Catedral de San Patricio marcó un tono festivo mientras los asistentes llegaban y se sentaban.

Lisa Squibbs llevó a sus cuatro hijos pequeños a la Misa para que pudieran presenciar a la Iglesia católica como una fe universal.

“Quería que experimentaran las diferentes culturas y vieran a todos unirse en la celebración”, dijo la feligres de St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Acompañados de los majestuosos acordes de “La Coraza de San Patricio” y el coro diocesano de 100 cantores, miembros de los Caballeros y Damas de San Peter Claver, la Orden Ecuestre del Santo Sepulcro de Jerusalén y la Orden de Malta entraron al salón del Centro de Convenciones durante una procesión

litúrgica. Les siguieron 21 obispos, 96 sacerdotes y 35 diáconos. Los 30 seminaristas de la Diócesis de Fort Worth participaron también en la liturgia.

Antes de comenzar la Misa, el Obispo Olson dio una especial bienvenida al Arzobispo Metropolitano de San Antonio Gustavo García-Siller; el Obispo del Condado de Orange Kevin Vann, que fue el tercer obispo de Fort Worth; el Obispo Stephen Berg de Pueblo, Colorado, que sirvió por varios años en la Diócesis de Fort Worth; y el obispo auxiliar Gregory Kelly, quien representó al obispo de Dallas Edward Burns. Fort Worth era parte de la Diócesis de Dallas antes del 1969.

Los cuatro obispos concelebraron la Misa con el Obispo Olson.

“Es realmente una bendición ser el Diácono de la Palabra de la manera más hermosa, celebrando la Santísima

VEA LA VÍDEO

Vea lo que los feligreses tuvieron que decir sobre la Misa del aniversario en NorthTexasCatholic.org/video-gallery



CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 56

DE LA PÁGINA 55

Eucaristía”, dijo el diácono recién ordenado Pedro Martínez, quien leyó el Evangelio (*Mateo 20: 1-16*) en español. “Me siento honrado y bendecido de ser parte de esta celebración del 50^{mo} aniversario de la diócesis”.

Cuando su familia se mudó de México a Fort Worth hace 18 años, la diócesis les proporcionó cuidado pastoral y espiritual principalmente a través del acceso a la Misa en español.

“Sigamos orando para que la Diócesis de Fort Worth pueda proclamar y vivir el Evangelio de Jesucristo — hacerlo todo”, dijo.

La Hermana Theresa Y Thi Tran expresó un sentimiento similar. Su congregación, los Amantes de la Santa Cruz, llegó aquí de Vietnam en el 2017 para ayudar a los feligreses de la Parroquia de los Mártires Vietnamitas.

“Queríamos venir aquí hoy para agradecer a Dios por todo lo que ha hecho por la diócesis”, ella dijo. “Las personas en la diócesis son especiales para nosotros porque nos aceptaron para el ministerio”.

En su homilía, el Obispo Olson señaló que la liturgia del aniversario coincidió con la conmemoración de San Pío X. El ex pontífice, conocido como el Papa del Santísimo Sacramento, sirvió durante el siglo más sangriento de la historia humana.

“El Papa San Pío X se preocupaba por el pueblo de Dios no como político o diplomático, sino como pastor que buscaba restaurar todas las cosas en Cristo”, dijo. “Hizo un llamado a la Iglesia para que volviera a la realidad del misterio de la Eucaristía en su presencia real de Cristo: la Eucaristía frecuentemente recibida con reverencia y devoción y ofrecida con sencillez y belleza”.



Olivia Sánchez, de la Parroquia de San Patricio, se arrodilla durante el Rosario antes del inicio de la Misa de aniversario de la Diócesis de Fort Worth. (NTC/Ben Torres)

El obispo instó a sus oyentes a contemplar de nuevo la presencia real de Cristo en la Eucaristía.

“Al darlo por sentado, terminamos aferrándonos a las cosas con egoísmo y en la oscuridad de los caprichos en lugar de pertenecer a Cristo y a los demás como la Iglesia”, advirtió.

Utilizando palabras escritas por el Papa Francisco, el Obispo Olson también aprovechó la ocasión para reconocer y expresar su agradecimiento a aquellos sacerdotes que pasan sus vidas al servicio

de los demás de manera fiel y generosa. Muchos hacen de sus vidas una “obra de misericordia” por el bien del Evangelio en áreas que a menudo son hostiles, aisladas o ignoradas.

“Sé que esto es cierto para ustedes, no sólo como su obispo, sino como un sacerdote que ha servido con ustedes en esta diócesis durante más de 25 años”, dijo.

Uno de esos sacerdotes, Monseñor

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MÁS FOTOS

Para ver nuestras fotos de la 50ª Misa, visite NorthTexasCatholic.org y haga clic en 'Photo Gallery.'



El Obispo Olson da comunión durante la Misa de aniversario de la diócesis de Fort Worth. (NTC/Ben Torres)



Los seminaristas, sacerdotes y el Obispo Olson al final de la celebración del 50º aniversario Misa. (NTC/Ben Torres)



INVIRTIENDO

Un joven participa en la Misa para los jóvenes en Holy Angels en Clifton. (NTC/Ben Torres)

en el FUTURO

La Campaña Diocesana Anual asiste a las escuelas y parroquias necesitadas

Por Susan Moses

Si quieres saber qué valora una persona, mira los estados de cuenta de sus tarjetas de crédito y su calendario. Lo que veas, te dirá mucho. Cómo gastamos nuestro dinero y qué hacemos con nuestro tiempo reflejan lo que es importante para nosotros.

Jesús expresó esta idea de una manera más elocuente. En su Sermón de la Montaña dijo, “Donde está tu tesoro, allí

estará tu corazón”. (Mateo 6,21)

¿Dónde está el corazón de la Diócesis de Fort Worth? ¿Qué es lo que valora la Diócesis?

Un vistazo a cómo la Campaña Diocesana Anual utiliza sus fondos muestra lo que la Diócesis atesora. Ayuda a los pobres y marginados a través de Caridades Católicas de Fort Worth. Cuida de los sacerdotes retirados. Asegura los cimientos espirituales de los feligreses mediante la formación de los diáconos permanentes y los seminaristas. Realiza el ministerio

con los confinados mediante la pastoral carcelaria. Educa y apoya a las parejas casadas para nutrir al matrimonio y la vida familiar. Realiza ministerio con los estudiantes universitarios. Ayuda a que el costo de la educación católica en las escuelas permanezca razonable y accesible.

En el año del 2018-19, cerca de una tercera parte de los \$3,071,292 donados por más de 10,800 familias fueron utilizados para sustentar todos estos importantes esfuerzos mencionados anteriormente.



Para aprender más acerca de la Campaña Diocesana Anual, visite AdvancementFoundation.org/annual-diocesan-appeal

MÁS
INFORMACIÓN

Este bien, conferido a través de la Diócesis y hecho posible gracias a la generosidad de los fieles de nuestra Diócesis, representa solamente una parte de cómo la Campaña Diocesana Anual beneficia a toda la comunidad del Norte de Texas.

Más de un millón de dólares de los fondos recaudados en la Campaña Anual fueron distribuidos a través de subvenciones y ayudas operacionales. Las parroquias y las escuelas pueden solicitar cada año subvenciones para atender necesidades específicas.

Renée Underwood, la Directora Asociada de la Fundación de Avance, dijo que las parroquias y las escuelas, en particular en los sectores rurales y desfavorecidos, “necesitan recursos y apoyo para poder manejar los asuntos temporales junto con los asuntos espirituales. El fin de la Campaña Anual es beneficiar a toda la Diócesis, es decir, a todos nosotros. Somos una gran familia”.

Aún cuando las parroquias y las escuelas que recibieron las subvenciones operacionales en el año del 2018-2019 se encuentran por diferentes áreas de las 23,900 millas cuadradas que comprende la Diócesis de Fort Worth, la mayoría de ellas solicitaron los fondos para lograr el mismo objetivo: invertir en los jóvenes, pues son el futuro de sus parroquias y escuelas.

CONSTRUIR LA IGLESIA DEL FUTURO

Al mismo tiempo que este artículo se publica, los maestros del Colegio Católico de St. Mary de Gainesville recibirán una agradable sorpresa. La cantidad del pago de sus cheques será más alta de lo esperado.

Al igual que la mayoría de los educadores católicos, los maestros de

St. Mary trabajan por mucho menos de lo que ganarían en una escuela pública, pero “nuestros maestros son muy dedicados” dijo el Padre John Pacheco, el párroco de St. Mary. Su compromiso con la educación católica significa que sacrifican sus ingresos para mantener más baja la matrícula de la escuela.

El Padre Pacheco agregó, “Queremos hacer lo mejor que podamos por nuestros maestros. Estamos muy contentos de recibir la subvención porque nuestros maestros se lo merecen. Ellos conocen a los estudiantes. Ellos les tienen un gran cariño a los niños”.

El Padre Pacheco fue educado en las escuelas públicas, pero desde que fue nombrado párroco de St. Mary, se ha convertido en “un ferviente propulsor de la educación católica”. Explicó “Dios está en las salas de clases de nuestra escuela. Rezamos. Celebramos Misa todas las semanas. La educación católica es realmente importante”.

La educación católica que los estudiantes reciben tiene “un gran efecto”, según el sacerdote. “Estos estudiantes y maestros se mantienen en contacto, incluso después de graduarse. Los estudiantes sobresalen en sus escuelas preparatorias y hacen buenas decisiones según van creciendo”.

La Parroquia de Holy Angels de Clifton utiliza los fondos recibidos para fomentar una vida de fe en los jóvenes para toda la vida. Así como muchas de las 29 parroquias que recibieron las subvenciones operacionales, la parroquia utilizará el dinero procedente de la Campaña Diocesana Anual para mejorar sus programas de educación religiosa y de la pastoral juvenil.

La pequeña parroquia, ubicada al noroeste de Waco y que cuenta con 120 familias, lucha por mantener un equilibrio entre los sueldos del personal y el mantenimiento de las instalaciones de la parroquia utilizando las colectas semanales.

“Al ser una parroquia rural pequeña con un ingreso promedio más bajo que una parroquia más grande en un área metropolitana, estos fondos de la Campaña Diocesana hacen una gran diferencia para continuar los programas que tenemos actualmente para nuestros jóvenes y para ayudarlos a crecer en su fe”, expresó el Padre Xavier Silvadasan, el párroco de Holy Angels.

Los dinámicos programas para los niños incluyen la Escuela Bíblica de Verano, las Misas mensuales para los jóvenes y los retiros diocesanos que ayudan a los estudiantes a crecer en su fe católica. La parroquia tiene planes para hacer una transición este año hacia una formación religiosa familiar, en la que los padres, guiados por un catequista, enseñan a sus hijos.

LA CAMPAÑA DIOCESANA ANUAL FOMENTA EL CRECIMIENTO

La Parroquia de Holy Angels está bien establecida, ya que sus orígenes datan del 1954. Sin embargo, hay otras dos parroquias que reciben subvenciones operacionales que son un buen ejemplo de cómo la Campaña Diocesana Anual asiste a las parroquias para hacer frente al rápido crecimiento de su población.

La parroquia más nueva de la Diócesis, la Parroquia de Holy Trinity de Azle, recibió una subvención, así como también la Parroquia de

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St. Thomas Apostle de Fort Worth, que le sirve de apoyo en su misión.

Beverly Oberdorf sirvió como administradora de ambas parroquias hasta que Holy Trinity se convirtió en junio en una parroquia por sí sola. Ella explicó que los nuevos vecindarios que se han desarrollado en el área de Azle y Eagle Mountain están trayendo una mayor cantidad de personas a la comunidad parroquial.

Underwood, la Directora Asociada de la Fundación de Avance, dijo que “las parroquias de Azle y St. Thomas son ejemplos ideales de lo que se trata la Campaña Anual. Cuentan con un grupo clave de personas que trabajan duro por su parroquia. Tienen consejos pastorales y financieros que funcionan bien, pero necesitaban ayuda y apoyo para crecer y dar el próximo paso”.

Ambas parroquias han terminado sus proyectos de construcción para poder acomodar el crecimiento, lo que limita el presupuesto disponible para el personal. Oberdorf se ocupaba a la vez de varias tareas cuando ella y otro empleado manejaban la oficina parroquial de St. Thomas the Apostle, incluso tenían que arreglar las sillas y las mesas cuando la parroquia celebraba cualquier evento.

Tras recibir los fondos de la subvención, la parroquia de 1,000 familias activas está contratando personal para ayudar en la liturgia, las comunicaciones, la administración y las instalaciones para ayudar a los feligreses “cuando lo necesitan”, según Oberdorf. La Parroquia de Holy Trinity

está también buscando personal para que ayude en la preparación sacramental y la educación religiosa.

“Recibir los fondos de una subvención es una gran bendición para la parroquia porque todos trabajamos juntos por el bien común”, dijo ella.

La Campaña Diocesana Anual ayudará también a fomentar un crecimiento medible del Colegio de St. Maria Goretti, un crecimiento que literalmente brota desde la tierra.

La escuela católica de Arlington utiliza parte de su subvención para obtener recursos curriculares que apoyan las oportunidades de aprendizaje práctico, incluido un centro de aprendizaje al aire libre.

En el jardín, que comenzará a utilizarse en octubre, los estudiantes aprenderán ciencias, por supuesto, pero también podrán practicar habilidades matemáticas mientras que miden y trazan en gráficas la altura de los tallos de frijoles,

agudizan sus talentos artísticos con bocetos de la naturaleza y encuentran un terreno fértil para la oración y la reflexión.

La Directora del colegio, Laura Behee, dijo que los recursos curriculares adquiridos con la subvención de la Campaña Diocesana Anual avanzarán la visión del Obispo Michael Olson de proveer una educación clásica. Los nuevos programas buscan la participación activa de los estudiantes en cada materia y son adecuados a su desarrollo en cada grado.

Una parte de la subvención otorgada a la escuela permitirá que se contrate a un Director de Desarrollo a tiempo parcial. Esas responsabilidades fueron compartidas el año pasado por Behee y otros dos miembros del personal del colegio.

Behee dijo que la Campaña demuestra que la educación católica “se realiza a través de la generosidad de muchas personas de toda la diócesis. Es un esfuerzo grupal, no sólo de nuestra parroquia o nuestros

padres. No podríamos hacerlo sin la generosidad de muchos”.

La mayoría de los donantes de la Campaña Anual utilizan tarjetas de compromiso tradicionales, pero algunos feligreses están aprovechando las formas convenientes de pago introducidas en los últimos años. Muchos donantes han optado por apoyar la Campaña continuamente a través del Círculo de San Francisco, que cuenta con deducciones automáticas mensuales de una cuenta bancaria o tarjeta de crédito, eliminando así los recordatorios enviados por correo.

Otros donantes han adoptado el plan de “text-to-give” (texto para donar) para apoyar a sus hermanos y hermanas de toda la diócesis. Esto se puede hacer con un texto de ADA al 91999.

El fin de semana del anuncio de la Campaña Anual será del 14-15 de septiembre y el fin de semana del compromiso del 21-22 de septiembre. 🇺🇸

Una estudiante del Colegio Católico de St. Mary de Gainesville sonríe en su sala de clases. (NTC/Jayne Donahue)



EL CONOCIMIENTO empodera

La diócesis implementará un nuevo programa de Ambiente Seguro para niños, jóvenes



Por Mary Lou Seewoester

Cuando enseñamos algunas de las destrezas típicas de la infancia, como montar en bicicleta o cruzar la calle, le brindamos a nuestros niños el adiestramiento y las herramientas para hacerlo de manera segura. Le damos un casco protector para montar en bicicleta y practicamos con ellos cómo mirar a ambos lados antes de cruzar una calle. Queremos que ellos conozcan los posibles peligros sin causarles un temor indebido.

Se aplican los mismos principios cuando enseñamos a nuestros niños a que estén seguros ante alguien que pueda hacerles daño o que los haga sentir incómodos en la escuela, la parroquia e incluso en la Internet, declaró Richard Mathews, el Director de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis.

La Diócesis de Fort Worth implementará en este otoño un nuevo programa para asistir a los padres, maestros, catequistas y ministros de la pastoral juvenil a enseñar a los niños de manera eficaz a reconocer los posibles peligros que pueden enfrentar y a cómo protegerse de los

mismos.

“Garantizar la seguridad de los niños es un gran reto y va más allá más del conocimiento, la capacitación, la educación y el adiestramiento de los adultos”, explicó Mathews.

“Para lograr esto el programa *Empowering God’s Children*® (EGC, por siglas en inglés) ofrece un acercamiento diferente del programa que la diócesis utilizaba anteriormente”, agregó.

“Se trata realmente de un programa

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de seguridad”, dijo Mathews. “La clave es asegurarse de que nuestros niños entienden que hay ciertos riesgos en el mundo. Este programa, en particular para los niños más pequeños, se enfoca en la enseñanza de varios principios básicos, pautas fáciles y normas simples que ellos pueden utilizar como herramientas para protegerse a sí mismos”.

“Nuestro propósito es que ellos estén conscientes y alertos — pero sin estar temerosos de todo el mundo”, añadió. “No queremos generar ese temor”.

Mathews explicó que el nuevo programa *Empowering God’s Children*® se realiza en colaboración con los padres y comienza con el consentimiento de ellos.

“La Iglesia ha declarado siempre que los padres tienen el deber y el derecho de ser los primeros y principales educadores de sus hijos”, comentó Mathews. “Nosotros complementamos esa tarea”.

Mathews desea dejar saber a los padres que el mensaje y los materiales de este programa son apropiados para la edad de cada grupo. “No vamos a utilizar un lenguaje o principios de enseñanza para los niños de kindergarten que no sean adecuados para su edad y desarrollo”.

Dijo que el enfoque del programa se refleja en su nombre porque está capacitando a los niños a ser conscientes, a decir “No” cuando se encuentren en situaciones incómodas y acudir enseguida a un adulto de confianza para contarles.

“Los niños necesitan saber también que pueden confiar en su propio sentido de lo que se siente bien y con lo que se sienten cómodos o no. Y si no se sienten cómodos con algo que se dijo, de la forma en que lo tocaron o un entorno en particular, deben decir ‘No’ y luego hablar abiertamente sobre ello con un adulto de confianza”.

Mathews dijo que gran parte del currículo del nuevo programa *Empowering God’s Children*® es hablar a los niños sobre el espacio personal y los límites personales. Prosiguió a explicar que los límites personales cambian con el tiempo según los niños crecen y se desarrollan. Por eso, la conversación con los niños de escuela secundaria será completamente diferente a la que se realizará con los niños de escuela primaria.

Mathews recalca que el programa no trata de impartir una educación sexual a los niños ni es tampoco otra versión del Programa de Ambiente Seguro para Adultos, que se requiere para todo el personal y los voluntarios de la diócesis.

“Si uno de los padres ha visto el programa para los adultos, tal vez les preocupe que el nuevo programa sea demasiado impactante, aterrador o demasiado fuerte para un niño. No se trata del mismo programa. El nuevo programa es uno diseñado específicamente para los niños y es apropiado para cada edad”.

Si los padres no se sienten cómodos con que sus hijos participen en el programa *Empowering God’s Children*®, pueden optar por no participar y se les pueden enviar los materiales para enseñar a sus hijos en su hogar.

“Honramos y respetamos esa decisión, ya que los padres conocen a sus hijos mejor que nosotros”, dijo.

El plan de estudios, que también está disponible en español, se divide en cuatro grupos según la edad: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 y 9-12 grados. Aunque el mismo concepto se enseña todos los años, los estudiantes reciben cada año lecciones y actividades completamente nuevas y diferentes.

“En el programa anterior... los estudiantes veían la misma cosa por tres años corridos y tanto los estudiantes como los adultos, se cansaban de lo mismo”, señaló Mathews.

Mathews también dijo que el nuevo programa será fácil de implementar porque los planes de las lecciones son detallados, específicos e incluyen videos de 5 a 11 minutos que presentan cada tema de una manera no amenazante.

Los líderes de la lección e incluso los padres podrían a veces no estar seguros de cómo presentar un tema delicado, por lo que los videos sirven como un rompehielos para ayudar a comenzar la discusión, los ejercicios y las actividades.

Una descripción general de toda la información del programa y el contenido de la instrucción están disponibles para que los padres “puedan conocerlo, sentirse cómodos con el programa e involucrar a sus hijos en la conversación”, agregó Mathews.

Para obtener más información sobre el programa *Empowering God’s Children*®, visite fwdioc.org/safe-environment. 🇺🇸

AMBIENTE SEGURO

Para Reportar Conducta Sexual Inapropiada:

Si usted o alguien que usted conoce es víctima de abuso sexual por parte de cualquier persona que sirve a la iglesia, puede:

- ▶ Llamar a la Línea Directa de Asistencia a Víctimas: (817) 602-5119.
- ▶ Llamar el Director Diocesano de Ambiente Seguro: (817)-945-9334 y dejar un mensaje.
- ▶ Llamar al Canciller de la Diócesis: (817)-945-9315.

Para Reportar Abuso o si Sospecha Abuso:

Si usted sospecha de abuso de un niño, anciano, o adulto vulnerable, o si abuso ha sido revelado a usted,

- ▶ Llame al Departamento de Servicios para la Familia y de Protección (DFPS) de Texas al (800) 252-5400.
- ▶ Reporte inmediatamente el presunto abuso a su supervisor, sacerdote o director, y presente el Aviso Confidencial de Preocupación con la información requerida por DFPS.

Para Más Información: Para inscribirse o informarse sobre nuestros programas de prevención de abuso, visite fwdioc.org/safe-environment





Los fieles disfrutaron de una recepción después de que la Diócesis de Fort Worth celebró su 50° aniversario. (NTC/Ben Torres)

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Publius Xuereb, se unió a la Diócesis de Fort Worth hace 50 años y ha servido a los cuatro obispos que la diócesis ha tenido. Una reunión casual con el Obispo Cassata en Dallas cuando tenía 25 años trajo al nativo de Malta a los Estados Unidos y a Texas en el 1969. Recuerda que en ese entonces no existía el Aeropuerto DFW o la Autopista 121 y sólo campos abiertos al norte de la Parroquia de San Jorge en la ciudad de Haltom. La oficina de la cancillería era una habitación en el sótano de un edificio en la Catedral de San Patricio.

“Había muy pocas parroquias y sólo vacas desde Nolan High School hasta Dallas”, bromeó el párroco del Santo Redentor, que también sirvió en otras 10 parroquias. “La diócesis ha crecido mucho,

increíblemente”.

Monseñor Xuereb, de 75 años, tiene gratos recuerdos de todos los obispos con los que trabajó. El Obispo Joseph P. Delaney, el segundo obispo de Fort Worth, murió en el 2005 y fue sucedido por el Obispo Vann.

“Los he amado a todos. Todos han sido buenos y han tenido sus propios dones particulares para ofrecer a los fieles”, observó.

Cada uno de los obispos ayudaron a la diócesis a crecer y florecer.

“Estamos celebrando hoy gracias a Cassata, Delaney, Vann y Olson”, dijo enfáticamente el Monseñor. “Doy gracias a Dios por ellos”.

Los timbres de las campanillas de los coros de San Patricio, Buen Pastor, San Andrés y Sagrada Familia cerraron la liturgia con una conmovedora interpretación de “*Let There Be Peace on Earth*”. 🇺🇸

LEA LA HOMILÍA

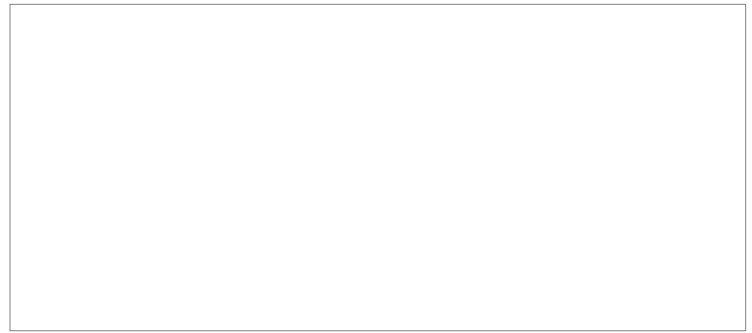
Para leer la versión completa de la homilía de la Misa del 50° Aniversario del Obispo Olson, visite FWBishopOlson.blogspot.com





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