



## Diocese of Austin

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### **Bishop opens online survey**

AUSTIN – As part of a process in developing a Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Austin, Bishop Joe S. Vásquez announced the opening of a survey intended to capture information to help the diocese plan for the next five years.

The 43-question survey is available online in English and Spanish. All Catholics, including those who are not participating in church life, are encouraged to take the survey, which will be open through April 27. The survey can be taken anonymously at [www.austindiocese.org](http://www.austindiocese.org).

The survey asks questions about the state of church life, faith formation and social issues.

“The Diocese of Austin has begun the process of developing a Pastoral Plan, which is similar to what a business would call a strategic plan. It will help us define our goals and priorities for the coming years. So, everyone’s input is essential to our success,” Bishop Vásquez said. “Recently, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, conducted a survey of bishops. To comply with his request, we used an online tool to collect information. We decided to use that same process to conduct our own survey. I encourage everyone to take the survey.”

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete online. Those without access to the digital survey can contact their local Catholic Church and request a paper survey, which they can fill out and leave at any Catholic Church.

The results of the survey will be collected and analyzed by a 33-member Pastoral Plan Steering Committee with the assistance of the diocese’s consultant, Chicago-based Essential Conversations.

For more information about the survey or to arrange an interview, contact Christian R. González at (512) 949-2456 or [christian-gonzalez@austindiocese.org](mailto:christian-gonzalez@austindiocese.org).

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*The Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin includes 127 parishes, or faith communities, in 25 counties in Central Texas. The diocese stretches over 21,000 square miles from West, Texas, (just north of Waco) in the north to San Marcos in the south to the Bryan/College Station area in the east to Mason in the west. More than 109,000 Catholic families live in the diocese, approximately 536,000 Catholics. There are 220 priests, 212 deacons, 51 brothers and 94 sisters serving in the diocese.*