



Diocese of Austin

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Diocese announces Pastoral Plan

AUSTIN – Bishop Joe S. Vásquez and Auxiliary Bishop Daniel E. Garcia will host a press conference on Monday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m. at Bishop’s Hall on the campus of St. Mary Cathedral in downtown Austin.

During the press conference, the bishops will unveil the diocesan Pastoral Plan: Encounter that Leads to Transformation. The plan has three major goals: to provide Spiritual Formation that Leads to Encounter, to create a Culture of Ministry for individuals and communities, and to strengthen Catholic Witness and Outreach. The Pastoral Plan will be used as an operational guide over the next three to five years.

“For me to serve as your shepherd is both a privilege and a blessing,” said Bishop Vásquez. “This Pastoral Plan belongs to the entire church of the Diocese of Austin. I ask you to join me in studying the goals, initiatives and objectives and become involved in the implementation of the plan. In doing so, we can help others encounter the Living Christ who desires to live in our hearts and who is very much concerned with our sufferings, hopes and joys. Christ wants to embrace all people, and we have a great opportunity through this plan to make that a reality.”

The Pastoral Plan is similar to a strategic plan for a business. The Pastoral Plan was developed with a committee of 30 volunteers and staff. In addition, Catholics and non-practicing Catholics were surveyed and a number of listening sessions were held around the diocese in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. The data collected from these meetings and surveys was used by the committee to develop the plan’s objectives.

Following Monday’s press conference, a prayer service to mark the opening of the Pastoral Plan will be held in St. Mary Cathedral at 7 p.m. Leaders from each of the 123 churches and missions in the Diocese of Austin will receive a copy of the plan, a study guide, a brochure and more. All of the materials will be distributed in English and Spanish. The materials will also be distributed to the 22 Catholic schools in the diocese. In addition, the materials will be published in Korean and Vietnamese on the diocesan website at austindiocese.org.

All media outlets are invited to attend the press conference and prayer service on Oct. 12 at St. Mary Cathedral at 203 E. 10th Street. For more information, contact Christian R. González at (512) 949-2456.

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The Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin includes 123 parishes, or faith communities, in 25 counties in Central Texas. The diocese stretches over 21,000 square miles.