"Today in a very special way as a family of faith, united with one voice, we call upon God to hear our pleas for the forgiveness of sins," Bishop Joe Vásquez said during his homily at the Mass of Reparation held Oct. 9 at St. Mary Cathedral in Austin.

In a letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Austin sent at the end of October, Bishop Vásquez inaugurated a Year of Reparation beginning Nov. 1, the Solemnity of All Saints.

"It is fitting on this day to begin this year-long observance invoking the intercession of all saints in heaven to pray for us as we work to bring an end to the evil of abuse of children," the bishop said.

Many people have asked him what it means to make an act of reparation, he said.

"In our Catholic tradition, to make reparation means to offer to God an act of compensation or making amends of one’s own sins or the sins of others against Christ. The act is a way to repair Christ’s heart, which has been wounded by sin," Bishop Vásquez said.

During the Year of Reparation, the bishop suggested Catholics return to traditional practices of prayer, fasting and service so that we are strengthened as a the community of faith and as individual disciples to avoid sin and to grow in holiness.

The diocesan Worship Office suggested some ways to observe the Year of Reparation:

- Participate in daily Mass.
- Pray daily for victims of abuse.
- Pray the rosary individually or as a group.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross.
- Pray the Angelus three times a day (traditionally at 6 a.m., noon, 6 p.m.).
- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- Spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle or exposed.
- Voluntarily observe meatless Fridays throughout the year.
- Fast one day a week (no snacks; consume two small meals and one regular meal).
- Give alms to or serve those in need (donate to food pantries, volunteer at soup kitchens).
- Do acts of penance, mercy and service within the community.

The bishop also called for an increased effort for all adults to participate in the diocesan Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM) program (whether a minister or not) to help ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in parishes and in communities.

During this time of crisis in the church, the bishop encouraged the faithful to turn to Christ and seek his guidance and help in order to confront the evil of sexual abuse of children by clergy and those who have mishandled these cases.

"These are painful and sad times in the church and our hearts are broken. There is much anger and frustration against the church and her leaders and trust has been shattered," Bishop Vásquez said.

"Our primary concern must be for the victims of sexual abuse by clergy; these are our brothers and sisters who are hurting and suffering," he said.

On Oct. 10, Bishop Vásquez and the other bishops of Texas made the commitment to release the names of clergy, from 1950 forward, who have been credibly accused of sexually abusing a minor by the end of January.

"We made this decision for the good of the church and to further help the victims of sexual abuse find healing and peace. My hope in releasing these names is to be transparent and begin to rebuild trust with the people I shepherd," the bishop said in this month’s Bishop’s Interview (see Page 16).

The ongoing work of reform and conversion must begin with clergy — bishops, priests and deacons, Bishop Vásquez said.

"We must give good example and be faithful to our vows and our commitment to strive for holiness in life," he said. "All of us are called to live the vocation of a holy life, which is rooted in Jesus Christ, who is the source of all holiness. During this time of crisis, we must return to Jesus Christ — his person and mission, his life, death and resurrection. This is where we will find salvation."

For more information on the Diocese of Austin’s response to the sexual abuse crisis, go to www.austindiocese.org/year-of-reparation.
A PERSONAL REFLECTION

St. Oscar Romero, pray for us

By Hosffman Ospino | Catholic News Service

On Oct. 14, Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador was officially declared a saint of the Catholic Church.

Millions of people of Latin America, Hispanics in the U.S. and countless others throughout the world had already referred to him as a saint for decades. The institution confirmed what the people of God, moved by the Holy Spirit, knew intuitively.

We now enter November, when Catholics contemplate more closely the saints who inspire us. During this month, we also remember those who died.

The memory of St. Oscar Romero invites us to think of holiness and death in unique ways. I have encountered people who met St. Oscar Romero. And I have read some good books that share his story and the circumstances in which he lived and died.

If anything, I can gather from the witness of those who met him and those who have written about the archbishop that he lived a rather ordinary Christian life.

He was a diligent bishop, passionate about the institution and the faith tradition to which he dedicated his life. He loved the people he served. He brought the best of his energy to make sure that the God-given dignity of these people was affirmed at all times.

One can read — and hear — in many of his homilies that were preserved for posterity that he was profoundly in love with Jesus Christ and wanted others to live likewise. The risen Christ was his hope.

Many would see all this as rather ordinary, actually expected of someone who would self-identify as a Christian. We learn again that saints are ordinary women and men of faith who live ordinary lives while being constantly open to being formed and transformed by God’s grace. That makes them extraordinary.

Like everyone else, St. Oscar Romero died; but his was an untimely death. Someone decided that his life was dispensable. The saint was assassinated while celebrating Mass on March 24, 1980.

It is tempting to romanticize the death of the martyrs — or death in general. I have heard pious comments from good people saying it was moving that he died while celebrating Mass. I cringe at those comments.

Nothing justifies taking away human life at any time. Period. Nothing justifies the creation of circumstances that would shorten people’s lives by hastening, directly or indirectly, their death.

In November, we remember relatives, friends and many others who have died. We remember them with the hope they are enjoying the promise of eternal life in God. We pray to them and for them trusting that they do likewise for us. We all are in communion through prayer.

Remembering the dead while thinking about how St. Oscar Romero died demands that we pause for a moment and think of those who died before their time; those who were considered disposable; those who lived in circumstances created by our own society that shortened their existences and hastened their deaths.

Too many people have died because of violence, war, poverty, lack of access to basic health care, corruption, racism, addiction, abortion and similar other realities that should pain us. Death is not glorious under these circumstances.

The memory of St. Oscar Romero compels us to live ordinary lives open to being formed and transformed by God’s grace and to denounce with prophetic voice the actions and circumstances that shorten people’s lives. In doing this, we will be extraordinary.

St. Oscar Romero, martyr and saint, in this month when we honor our saints and remember our dead, pray for us.

Hosffman Ospino is professor of theology and religious education at Boston College.
Catholic Services Appeal puts love into action

By Shelley Metcalf | Catholic Spirit Editor

The 2018-2019 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) kicks off the weekend of Nov. 3-4. This year’s CSA theme is "Love Abides" based on this passage from the Gospel of John: "As the Father loves me so I also love you. Remain in my love."

Bishop Joe Vásquez said love is put into action through the work of the CSA.

"Love becomes an action when people visit the sick, when we care for the poor, when we form our young people in religious education, when we help couples strengthen their marriages. That is when love is put into action and that is when ‘love abides,’” the bishop said.

The CSA provides training and ongoing formation for seminarians, priests, deacons, lay leaders and volunteers, faith formation opportunities for youth, programs for strengthening families, and support for Catholic schools as well as a pro-life and social justice ministries.

Roughly 44 percent of CSA donations will go toward clergy formation to support the ongoing needs of the seminarians, priests and deacons of the Austin Diocese. About 20 percent of the CSA will benefit Catholic education and the support of parish catechists and Catholic school teachers. This year 17 percent will go toward the work of life, charity and justice in assisting those who are vulnerable and in need. The remaining 20 percent will support pastoral ministries for our youth and young adults and spirituality and worship activities throughout the diocese.

Lisa Rosenberger, the associate director of the CSA, said last year’s CSA was the strongest year ever in the Diocese of Austin.

“We collected more than $6 million last year,” she said. “We could not do this without the support of our parishes throughout the diocese.”

However, she said this year’s appeal is a little different from years past.

Due to the launch of the Encountering Christ capital campaign, we will have two in-pew weekends this year. Most parishes will kick off the CSA Nov. 3-4. However, parishes in Wave One of the capital campaign will launch the CSA Jan. 26-27, 2019,” Rosenberger said.

She further explained the difference between the CSA and the Encountering Christ Capital Campaign.

“The CSA supports the daily needs of running our diocese,” she said. “The capital campaign is about funding the long-term vision of where we want to be over the next few decades.”

Bishop Vásquez launched this year’s appeal with a reception for the Good Shepherd Giving Society on Oct. 13 at St. William Parish in Round Rock. The society is made up of donors who give more than $2,500 to the CSA each year. Last year, members of the society contributed more than $1.6 million to the CSA.

During the Oct. 13 reception, the bishop thanked all of the donors and the clergy for their ongoing support of the CSA. Also a drawing was held in which $50,000 was awarded to nine parishes in the diocese.

Santa Cruz Parish in Buda took home the grand prize of $10,000 this year. The following parishes took home $5,000 each: Santa Julia Parish Austin, St. John the Baptist Parish in Waco, the University Catholic Center in Austin, Santa Teresa Parish in Bryan, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Taylor, Holy Cross Mission in Bertram, St. Louis Parish in Austin and St. Joseph Parish in Manor.

Father Greg McLaughlin, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Manor, was elated when his raffle ticket was drawn from the bin.

“What a blessing,” he said. “We will use the money to pay some of our bills and to begin our building fund for a new church complex.”

Bishop Vásquez encouraged people throughout the diocese to pray for the success of the CSA and to support it as much as they are able.

“This diocese is blessed in so many ways,” Bishop Vásquez said. “I cannot do the work that Christ has entrusted to us as a diocese without your help.”

For more information and to make a pledge, visit www.austindiocese.org and click on the "Donate" button at the top of the page.

Catholic Charities activates disaster team to help flood victims

By Catholic Spirit Staff

The Catholic Charities of Central Texas’ Disaster Response team was activated Oct. 22 as a result of historic flooding in the Hill Country.

“Currently, we are working with our sister organizations across Central Texas to provide disaster relief efforts to the cities of Llano, Mason, Kingsland, Horseshoe Bay and Marble Falls,” said Sara Ramirez, executive director of CCCTX.

To coordinate all the resources needed for deployment help is needed in four key areas, she said.

First, she asked for prayers for the residents in the Hill Country and all those affected by this flooding. Secondly, she said volunteers are needed.

“We are seeking names and contact information for volunteers willing to lend their time and talent to our Disaster Response program,” she said. Volunteer roles will range from administrative to direct work with families impacted by the flooding. To volunteer, e-mail Claire Bordelon at claire-bordelon@ccctx.org.

Ramirez expects there will be volunteer opportunities for the short-term and for the long-term recovery efforts across the Texas Hill Country. Deployment to the Hill Country will not occur until high flood waters have abated and damage has been assessed.

Financial donations are also welcomed, Ramirez said.

“We know that families need food, clothing and shelter. The most effective way we can help is to raise funds and empower families to feel some sort of normalcy again by being able to purchase their preferred food items, clothing, etc.,” she said.

All disaster donations made to CCCTX go directly to client services, Ramirez said. To make a secured online donation, visit www.ccctx.org/donations-form.html. Those who would rather purchase gift cards may do so in increments of $25 and $50 to Walmart, HEB and/or Home Depot. Gift cards can be mailed to Catholic Charities of Central Texas, Attn: Chris Reyes-Paiz Disaster Response, 1625 Rutherford Ln., Austin 78754.

Ramirez also encouraged all those affected by the floods to let CCCTX know if they need help. Evacuees can call the CCCTX Disaster Number at (512) 766-7111 or e-mail christine-reyes-paiz@ccctx.org.

Finally, Ramirez thanked Central Texans for their help in dealing with the historic flooding along the Colorado River.

CCCTX will continue to post disaster relief updates on social media, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
By Carla Smith | Correspondent

On Dec. 1 the Diocese of Austin will host a celebration honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe and the unique and close connection Central Texas has with Our Blessed Mother.

“Our certainly have a special relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary,” said Lily Morales, coordinator of the diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry. “So much so that our diocese was consecrated and entrusted to her maternal care on its 70th anniversary. Today, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a reminder of her maternal care and a sign of the tender love of God manifested in history.”

That love will be celebrated on Dec. 1 in downtown Austin with a procession at 8 a.m. beginning at St. Mary Cathedral and ending at San José Parish, where Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Joe Vásquez. Fellowship will follow and families are invited to attend and participate in all activities.

“In celebrating the memory of Mary we, like her, are invited to go out and meet others with the same gaze, mercy and gestures,” Morales said. “She invites us to create bonds in our local church and community, saying ‘yes’ to life and ‘no’ to indifference, exclusion or the rejection of people.”

In light of this, the event’s theme this year is the Respect Life program, which focuses on helping Catholics become engaged in building a culture that cherishes every human life.

“A way we can honor and follow Our Lady more closely is to work to protect the sanctity of every person’s life at every stage and in every circumstance,” Morales said.

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated annually on Dec. 12. It was Our Lady of Guadalupe who converted Mexico and Latin America to Catholicism and her appearance in the Americas has contributed to her being given the title “Mother of America.” She first appeared to young Juan Diego on Dec. 9, 1531, on the Hill of Tepeyac, which would later become Villa de Guadalupe, a suburb of Mexico City.

Juan Diego reported this to the archbishop but the bishop did not believe him. Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego three more times and after being instructed by the Virgin to ask Our Lady for a miraculous sign to prove her identity, Juan Diego was instructed by the Virgin to gather flowers from the top of Tepeyac Hill, which was normally barren. He followed her instructions and found Castilian roses, not native to Mexico, and Mary arranged the flowers in his “tilma” or cloak. When he opened the cloak in front of the archbishop, flowers fell to the floor and on the fabric became the now famous image of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

The diocese encourages Catholic organizations and associations to participate in the Dec. 1 event and to register as groups. This will be the sixth annual diocesan Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration and hopes are by participating and praying, all involved will feel Our Lady’s love and grace.

“Our hope is that the faithful in our diocese experience the closeness and love of Our Lady and that, inspired by her memory, we respond to the call to help others encounter God’s transforming, life-giving love,” Morales said.

For more information or to register, go to www.austindiocese.org/olg-celebration or call (512) 949-2426.
By Mary P. Walker | Senior Correspondent

A young man, who wishes to remain unnamed, had a problem. He was joining a religious order, entering the seminary, and taking a vow of poverty. As a former student of Texas A&M University, his Aggie class ring was a treasured possession, and he could not take it with him. After praying, the Holy Spirit offered the perfect solution. He gave the ring to his spiritual mentor at St. Mary Catholic Center, Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate Father Charlie Banks.

Age 79, Father Banks is the superior of the Oblate Madonna Residence in San Antonio, a retirement community that includes 23 priests, one brother and one bishop. Since 2007, he has made the more than three-hour trip to College Station to spend Mondays at the Catholic Center. There, he offers spiritual direction to students and others who seek his kind and wise counsel. Midafternoon, Father Banks moves to the confessional for two hours, where a long line waits to receive the sacrament. Then, he celebrates Mass, attended by hundreds; he drives back to San Antonio on Tuesday.

The students love Father Banks, and Father Banks loves the students, who give him great hope for the future of the Catholic Church. He admires these young adults, who strive to live their faith in a world that constantly challenges it.

“It is an honor and inspiration to go to St. Mary’s every week,” Father Banks said. He also praised the dedication of the priests, Apostles of the Interior Life Sisters, and the lay staff who serve there.

When the former student offered him the Aggie ring, Father Banks was surprised and touched. He knew that students cherish their rings as a symbol of their membership in the larger community of Aggies. They continue to wear them long after college, often throughout their lives. All over the world, the ring identifies Aggies to each other. Symbols on the ring represent the values of Texas A&M University and scholastic achievement. Five stars signify the phases of Aggie development: mind or intellect; body; spiritual attainment; emotional poise; and integrity of character. Because the ring has a solemn meaning for Aggies, Father Banks wondered if he could rightfully wear it without offending those who honor its tradition. He asked a friend, Joe Franklin, Class of 76, to find out. Franklin contacted Texas A&M’s Association of Former Students and explained the circumstances. The Association gave their blessing for Father Banks to wear the ring.

Franklin said if any one exemplifies the values that Aggies hold dear, values also reflected in Catholicism, it is Father Banks.

“He has given so much to the students over the years. He has every right to wear the ring,” Franklin said. In fact, current students and Aggies from San Antonio are thrilled that Father Banks now shares in their Aggie legacy.

Although he lives in San Antonio, Father Banks has his own tradition of priestly service in the Austin Diocese. He grew up in rural Illinois, where he taught catechism to the children of Hispanic migrant workers. He was attracted to the Oblates because of their work with the poor and those of Hispanic heritage. Entering religious life in 1960, he will celebrate 52 years as a priest on Dec. 17.

For many years, the Oblates served at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Austin, where Father Banks was pastor from 1982-1991. The parish also ministered to the once small Hispanic Catholic community of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission in Pflugerville. Father Banks was one of the last Oblates to celebrate Mass every other Sunday in Pflugerville before that community grew to become a parish with a resident pastor.

In 2006, he was introduced to the students and ministry at Texas A&M when Bishop David Konderla, then pastor of St. Mary, invited him to be a spiritual director at an annual retreat. Two years later, the bishop invited him to a permanent ministry on Mondays, where the parish priests have a day of rest.

“One of the great gifts of the church to the Aggies is Father Charlie Banks. He has shown us what fidelity to mission looks like, and we are richer for his presence and wisdom,” Bishop Konderla said.

Father Banks hopes that God grants him many more years of health and driving ability for his Mondays in College Station. When asked about his plans for the Aggie ring after he dies, he said that his community will return it to the seminarian, who will again decide its future.

Book your 2019 Marriage Encounter now

Married couples are invited to strengthen, renew and rekindle their sacrament of matrimony by attending one of the upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends: Feb. 8-10 in Belton, March 29-31 in Round Rock, Sept. 6-8 in Round Rock or Nov. 1-3 in Belton. The emphasis of the Marriage Encounter ministry is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life. For more information, contact (512) 949-2470 or phi-le@austindiocese.org or visit www.austindiocese.org/marriage-preparation.

Upcoming retreats at Cedarbrake in Belton

The annual Cedarbrake Advent Dinner will be held Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Belton. Franciscan Father Albert Haase, Cedarbrake’s new chaplain, will be the keynote speaker. The cost is $25 per person. To register, visit www.austindiocese.org/cedarbrake or call (254) 780-2436.

The Silent Advent Retreat will be held Dec. 7-9 at Cedarbrake. This is a weekend of silence and solitude combined with communal prayer and Mass. Cost is $210 per person for a private room. To register, visit www.austindiocese.org/cedarbrake or call (254) 780-2436.

Retreat for those preparing to marry

A weekend retreat for engaged couples who are discerning their vocation of marriage and preparing to get married in the Catholic Church will be held Nov. 30-Dec. 2 at Cedarbrake Retreat Center in Belton. The weekend includes talks on faith, communication, sexuality and stewardship in the context of Catholic marriage. For more information, contact (512) 949-2470 or phi-le@austindiocese.org or visit www.austindiocese.org/marriage-preparation.
Encuentro process helps heal wounds, unite cultures

By Norma Montenegro Flynn and Shelley Metcalf

Nearly 3,000 Hispanic ministry leaders have gone back to their parishes and dioceses to share the ideas and fruits of the conversations that took place at the Fifth National Encuentro in Grapevine at the end of September.

The next phase in the multi-year Encuentro process is aimed at putting into practice the lessons learned and bear fruits.

“This has been like a retreat, the message that we were given at the end is you have the Holy Spirit, you have to take it with you and you have to be saints, produce fruits of love,” said Sister Maldonado, a member of the Dominican Sisters of the Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. Her order is involved with family ministry serving parishes in Maryland and Texas.

In the next few months, the leadership team of the Fifth National Encuentro, or V Encuentro, will distribute a concluding document listing the main priorities and problems identified across 28 ministry areas; the document will assist dioceses, parishes and national structures in drafting their own pastoral plans according to their own realities and priorities.

The Encuentro’s team of accompagnator, or ENAVE, plans to continue providing support and tracking progress.

“We have achieved things in some ways we never would have imagined would be possible,” Ken Johnson-Mondragon, V Encuentro’s director of research, told Catholic News Service. “Walls have come down, people have experienced really the joy that Pope Francis talks about.”

The V Encuentro process began about four years ago and has helped thousands of Hispanic ministry leaders engage in faith-filled dialogues among themselves and reach out to those on the peripheries. Encuentro has also promoted collaboration within and across dioceses, which is known as ‘pastoral en conjunto,’ and has helped remove the ‘fear to speak up,’ bringing the participants closer to their pastors and bishops, Johnson-Mondragon said.

Luisa de Poo, associate director of Pro-Life Activities for the Austin Diocese, helped lead the Encuentro efforts for the Diocese of Austin. The Encuentro process has helped cultures see beyond their differences, she said.

“We worked hard to communicate that this process was for the whole church, not just for Hispanics. We have witnessed the Hispanic and Anglo communities coming together for the good of one another,” de Poo said.

The V Encuentro identified and prepared at least 25,000 new Hispanic ministry leaders across the country, and about a third of the leaders engaged were youth and young adults. An estimated 100,000 individuals participated in the process and about 150,000 others on the peripheries were reached.

“It was amazing to see the enthusiasm of the people when they heard the call of the church and they responded to that call with such humble hearts,” de Poo said.

This process has helped the participants from the Hispanic community to heal deep wounds caused by rejection and segregation, she said.

“I think this process has helped the Hispanic community to have hope,” de Poo said.

Another important gain is that the V Encuentro has captured the attention and support of the bishops nationwide. At the gathering, about 125 bishops — Hispanic and non-Hispanic — walked side by side with their diocesan delegations, and about 160 out of 178 Roman Catholic dioceses and archdioceses in the country were represented. Austin’s Bishop Joe Vázquez and Auxiliary Bishop Daniel Garcia attended the V Encuentro. Bishop Vázquez served as the episcopal lead for Region X.

“I was overjoyed to spend time with our diocesan delegates and others from around the country. There were more than 3,000 participants which is a great sign of witness to the faith of our people. Truly, the Holy Spirit was present in and among the people, just as the Holy Spirit was present when we gathered in Austin for the Diocesan Encuentro. The V Encuentro is a sign of great hope for our Church in the United States.”

Father Jairo Sandoval, pastor of San José Parish in Austin, said it was very refreshing to see bishops, priests and religious brother and sisters, enjoying themselves with the laity.

“The laity showed they have the skills to help the church move in the direction indicated by the Holy Spirit. The bishops were grateful for the vibrant and faithful help that comes from the Hispanic communities,” Father Sandoval said.

The top three recommendations that arose in the Encuentro process are the need to develop pastoral plans for Hispanic ministry tailored according to the needs of each parish and diocese; the need of the parish community to help strengthen families; and to hire more Hispanic young adults in paid positions of leadership.

The 28 ministry areas addressed by the V Encuentro include those that reach out to youth, young adult, college campuses, immigrants, family, people with disabilities, and the incarcerated, as well as ministries in vocations, pro-life, faith formation and catechesis, justice and peace, and even care for the environment among others.

Adriana Bañuelos, a young adult Encuentro delegate from St. William Parish in Round Rock, said she felt the emphasis on young adults throughout the Encuentro process.

“Young adults received a lot of attention, particularly at the national level,” she said. “I felt like our names were being called out.”

Sonia Vega-Perez, a parishioner of St. Monica Parish in Cameron and Encuentro delegate, said the Encuentro process helped the parish team realize the importance of the involvement of youth.

“Our youth are the life of our parish,” she said. “Including our youth is very vital to the growth and leadership of our church.”

As a word of advice from Mercy Sister Ana Maria Pineda, who has witnessed all the Encuentros, it is important to connect the previous Encuentros to the current one, while staying focused on the work at hand amid the challenges it might present.

“We’re being called to a very special moment in time and we need to step up to the plate to make sure that we are on the side of the poor, on the side of those who can’t protect themselves,” Sister Pineda said.

More than 3,000 delegates attended the Fifth National Encuentro Sept. 20-23 in Grapevine (near Fort Worth). More than 30 people from the Diocese of Austin attended the event. (Photo courtesy Sonia Vega-Perez)
The meeting also served as a way for supporters to hear how their donations are being used in the 25-county area serviced by the ministry. CCCTX has an office in Bryan and at St. Joseph Parish in Killeen.

Sara Ramirez, the executive director of CCCTX, said when she started in her position five years ago, CCCTX had a $2.5 million budget that served 4,000 people. This fiscal year’s budget is $5.6 million and on schedule to serve more than 13,000 people.

Ramirez said staff, volunteers and supporters do all this work because they are faithful.

“Our Catholic foundation is based on Catholic social teaching,” she said. “When folks walk in through the door, we are able to see a glimpse of God.”

She said a long-time volunteer told her once that God calls us to be faithful, not successful and the rest will come.

“Being faithful allows us to dream of the possibilities,” she said. “Clients at CCCTX are subject to the three E’s: Engage, Educate and Empower.”

“Don’t want repeat customers,” she said. “We do budget preparation and financial literacy for 12 months.”

By the time clients finish the program, 72 percent are housing stable.

“That means 1,800 parents and children are not sleeping in a shelter,” Ramirez said.

Along with the financial stability program, CCCTX also offers counseling, disaster recovery, the Gabriel Project Life Center, immigration legal services, parish relations and volunteer program.

Ramirez recounted the story of Edwin, 18, and Carlos, 15, two brothers from Guatemala seeking asylum help from immigration legal services. They left their home country after the rest of their family was murdered by gangs and Carlos was shot in the back, leaving him paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair.

“Edwin pushed Carlos 1,000 miles from Guatemala to the border to seek asylum because they had nowhere else to go,” she said.

Through the disaster recovery program, CCCTX helped 3,809 individuals affected by Hurricane Harvey last year. They distributed $289,436 to assist with food, clothing and shelter and are currently rebuilding 193 homes.

Last year, CCCTX launched St. Michael’s Veteran Services. During its first year, the program served 230 veterans and dependents, distributing $131,250 in aid to military families.

Outgoing board member and Ret. Col. Chris Cantu was honored for his work in launching the veterans’ program.

Cantu said he chose St. Michael for the program’s name because St. Michael was his confirmation saint. During his three tours of duty, he always carried a St. Michael coin.

Those in the military, he said, answer a call, much as the Prophet Isaiah did in Isaiah 6:8 when he responded to the Lord, “Here I am. Send me.”

After their service, many need help returning to civilian life, and CCCTX seeks to offer them hope that they can make that transition.

“We hope we have patience and endurance to overcome fears and adjust to our new surroundings,” Cantu said.

For more information about CCCTX, visit www.ccctx.org or call (512) 651-6100.
#iGIVECATHOLIC

November 27, 2018

SAVE THE DATE

https://austin.igivecatholic.org/
Austin Habitat makes home ownership a reality

By Ricardo Gandara | Correspondent

The American dream of owning a home is perhaps more elusive in the Austin area than ever before, and it’s almost impossible for low-income people in this thriving economy. But when Austin Habitat for Humanity is involved, that dream becomes a reality.

“It’s a dream come true,” said Elva Mendoza, who along with husband Marell and 10-year-old son Eli, will move into a new home next spring.

In cooperation with the Catholic Build, Austin Habitat for Humanity has pre-qualified the family for a 1,086-square foot, three-bedroom home in the Scenic Point subdivision off of Johnny Morris Road in East Austin.

“I can picture it in my mind. We went to the lot and prayed. We’re so emotional and grateful to Habitat for Humanity,” Elva said recently standing in front of her framed house.

Austin Habitat for Humanity stresses that home ownership is the fastest way for a low-income family to accumulate wealth and break the cycle of poverty. Since 1985, the Austin Habitat for Humanity has built 433 new energy-efficient homes for hard-working families through a unique partnership.

Once a family completes the application process to qualify, said pre-qualified, prospective homeowners are required to contribute $3,000 seed money for the house and complete 300 hours in “sweat equity” toward the construction of their own home or one belonging to a neighbor. It’s a “hand up” approach, not a hand out. A family will pay an interest-free 30-year mortgage. The mortgage payment will not exceed 30 percent of a family’s gross monthly income. The Mendosas expect their mortgage to be about $800 monthly, which includes insurance and property taxes.

A qualifying family must not make more than 80 percent of the median income ($61,950 for a family of three) to be considered. Applicants must be employed, permanent residents or American citizens.

Elva Mendoza is a native of Honduras who has been in the U.S. 30 years. She is a custodian at the University of Texas, Marell is also from Honduras. He is a self-employed auto mechanic who hustles for work. They became familiar with Austin Habitat for Humanity because she had friends who acquired a home through the program.

“That was 2011 when we inquired, but knew we had work to do,” Marell said.

“So we got organized,” Elva said. She became a citizen in 2014. Marell, who has a green card to work, is in the process of becoming a citizen.

Families undergo an extensive application process to qualify, said Silvio Cruz, a lending supervisor who is working with the Mendoza family.

“There’s a lot of paperwork. Applicants need to be employed, and we don’t give houses away for free,” he said.

Each family goes through a criminal background check and loan review. Rent and credit history are also verified. Applicants must attend an orientation class and three additional classes to familiarize themselves with home maintenance, finance and budgeting.

“This is an investment,” Cruz said.

Once a family completes the application and pre-qualifies, they are put on a waiting list for lots to become available. The agency acquires lots through gifts and corporate donations. Of its $11-million operating budget in 2017, $3 million was in contributions.

The Mendoza’s house is under construction. A final loan review is done right before move in. “Then I just turn over the keys,” Cruz said.

The Catholic Build plays an important role in the arduous process as it partners with Austin Habitat for Humanity. For 20 years, Catholic parishes have provided donations for the construction of houses as well as volunteers who pitch in during the building phase of a project.

DeKarlos Blackmon, the diocesan diocesan director of Life, Charity and Justice, is pleased that Austin parishes are working together in this Catholic Build.

Elva and Marell Mendoza are working with Austin Habitat for Humanity to build their new home in East Austin. (Photo by Ricardo Gandara)

“This partnership of our parishes is a veritable expression of serving God and our neighbor,” he said.

Habitat chief operating officer Phyllis Snodgrass said the partnership with the Catholic community began with former Bishop John McCarthy.

“He believed in it strongly,” she said. Thus, the Catholic Build is also known as the Bishop John McCarthy Memorial Build.

“You started as a faith-based organization working with churches. We don’t have to supervise the Catholic community. They know as much about this as our teams,” she said.

Austin Habitat for Humanity, which has more than 12,000 volunteers, originally started repairing homes and eventually moved into home construction.

The agency still has a repair program and a home improvement ReStore on Ben White Boulevard that is open to the public.

To assist physically or financially with the Bishop John McCarthy Memorial Build, visit www.austinhabitat.org/catholicbuild. For more information about Habitat for Humanity, visit www.austinhabitat.org.
Synod groups tackle difficult issues from all over the world

By Cindy Wooden | Catholic News Service

No one is excluded from the love of God or from being welcomed into the Catholic Church, but God’s love and the church’s welcome also come with a call to conversion, said the English-language groups at the Synod of Bishops.

Young people need to know “the church’s beautiful, yet challenging, vision, teaching and anthropology of the body, sexuality, love and life, marriage and chastity,” said the English-A group.

“At the same time, we restate the church’s opposition to discrimination against any person or group, and her insistence that God loves every young person, and so does the church,” the group said in its report.

The reports, published by the Vatican Oct. 20, were the result of reflections in the small groups — divided by language — on the final chapter of the synod working document, which dealt with “pastoral and missionary conversion.”

Most of the 14 working groups called for further local and national dialogue with young people on what they need from the Catholic Church and what they can offer the church. Most also called for a greater involvement of women in the life of the church, including in the training of priests, and many acknowledged how the sexual abuse scandal undermines the church’s credibility.

None of the synod groups in any language used the term “LGBT,” but many of them did refer to a need to help young people who struggle with church teaching on sexuality or, more explicitly, those who experience “same-sex attraction.”

The English-B group said that it “discussed the issue of Catholics who experience same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria,” which refers to believing one’s biological sex does not correspond to his or her true identity.

The group asked that the synod’s final document include “a separate section for this issue and that the main objective of this be the pastoral accompaniment of these people which follows the lines of the relevant section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.” The catechism teaches that homosexual activity is sinful, but that homosexual people must be respected and welcomed.

The group members of the group took part in the Vatican’s daily press briefing on the synod and were asked about the discussion on homosexuality.

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago told reporters the group wanted to ensure that the synod’s final document would say “something that was inclusive of everyone.”

Cardinal John Ribat of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, said the synod could not ignore the topic because it is one of the things young people, inside and outside the synod, are talking about.

“Now,” he said, “the approach of the church is to be able to welcome everyone and to make them feel at home and that nobody is excluded. That is the church.”

Australian Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli of Melbourne told reporters, “Very simply, aren’t we all sinners and aren’t we all looking to be found by God and, being found by God, how might we then find our lives in him?”

The English-D group said it, too, “spent a good deal of time reflecting on the motif of the church’s stance of welcome and inclusivity. We fully and enthusiastically acknowledge that the church of Jesus Christ reaches out in love to absolutely everyone.”

“No one, on account of gender, lifestyle or sexual orientation, should ever be made to feel unfed, uncared for,” the group said. “However, as St. Thomas Aquinas specifies, love means ‘willing the good of the other.’ And this is why authentic love by no means excludes the call to conversion, to change of life.”

The group also echoed a sentiment shared by other groups that through the synod, the speeches and the contributions of the young adults present, “it became eminently clear that young people crave holiness of life and desire practical training that will help them walk the path of sanctity.”

The French-B group asked for a special section in the synod’s final document on “the gift of the body (and) the grace of affectivity and sexuality.”

The section should explain church teaching clearly and in a way young people understand “to avoid confusion,” the group said. But “we believe it is important to deepen a reflection on pastoral outreach and the mission of the church regarding certain categories before introducing them into the document.”

The Spanish-B group, led by Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, also called on the Vatican — probably his office — to prepare a document in which “the subject of sexuality is approached in a systematic and clear way, with anthropological arguments, accessible to all young people, that shows that the virtue of chastity is a joyful affirmation that creates the conditions for human and divine love.”

“We must adopt a welcoming and cordial attitude to promote the integration and accompaniment of all people, including those of different sexual orientations, so that they may grow in faith and in their relationship with God, who is love and the source of truth and mercy,” the group said.

The French-D group said church leaders must remember “the life of a young person 16 to 30 years old is not linear. It is marked by successes, failures, decisive and happy stages like passing an exam, getting one’s first job, entering a relationship or creating a family. It is important to allow young people to live these moments spiritually, discerning in the Holy Spirit the path God is opening before them.”

The English-C group, like many others, noted that while the synod can provide general suggestions for listening to young people and involving them in the life of the church, individual parishes and dioceses will need to find specific ways to put those suggestions into practice.

“We suggest that episcopal conferences be strongly invited to take up the results of the synod and engage in a similar process of reflection in their own milieus, even including non-bishops in the deliberations, as this synod has done,” the group said.

The Spanish-A group asked that Pope Francis, in celebrating the closing Mass for the synod Oct. 28, make a formal gesture to symbolize he is sending all the synod participants back to their home countries to put into practice what they heard at the assembly.
Final synod document to focus on all young adults

By Junno Arocho Esteves | Catholic News Service

The final document from the October Synod of Bishops will seek to address issues concerning all young people and not just those issues facing young men and women living in Western countries, said members participating in the Synod of Bishops.

The various speeches and small-group discussions within the synod process have “enabled us to see the entirety of the many issues that young people face around the world,” Samoan observer Joseph Sapati Moeono-Kolio said Oct. 23 at a Vatican briefing for journalists.

Throughout the discussions leading up to the synod’s final week, Sapati said, small groups “have been very specific and intentional that we don’t become too Western with our approach.”

“Whether or not there will be a Western focus on the document, we don’t know, we haven’t read it, it’s not fully finished yet. But I can say for certain that in the process leading up to that, everyone that has been part of the synod has been very intentional in making sure that that it is not Eurocentric,” he said.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila told journalists that, as someone involved in the preparations leading up to the synod, “there was this sort of attention to the diversity and complexity of contexts so that” the process would not be “accused again” of being Eurocentric.

However, he noted, even the small language groups are challenged in understanding and expressing the issues discussed because “every language carries a whole world and culture.”

“I belong to the English-speaking group. But we came from different continents and, wow, I realized we were using eight or nine different types of English,” Cardinal Tagle said. “And so, having the label ‘English Group D’ doesn’t mean we understand the same things when we use the same word. So, there will always be this challenge of finding some sort of common ground in the midst of diversity.”

Congolese Bishop Bienvenu Manamika Bafoualouahou of Dolisie also confirmed that during the synod discussions, there was “a universality of themes” that centered on how they affect all young people and not just those in Europe or farther West.

Discussions, such as those concerning Catholics who identify as LGBTQ, are not a major issue in Africa compared to Europe, Bishop Manamika said.

However, the Congolese bishop said the issue of how best to minister to people in the LGBTQ community “will be more widespread” in Africa as time goes on and, therefore, will be an important theme to discuss.

Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, editor of La Civiltà Cattolica, told journalists that the increasingly diverse representation throughout the history of the Synod of Bishops “makes the conversation between synod fathers richer and more complex” and allows the church to be able to listen to and “immerse itself in different cultures.”

“An event like the synod,” Father Spadaro said, “becomes almost a miraculous event where people from every part of the world share the same faith but embody it in different cultural contexts where they can converge on some issues.”

Save on Medicare Supplement Insurance
BUY DIRECT/NO AGENT

How Much Will You Save

Now you can apply for Medicare Supplement Insurance online at any time – NO WAITING.

Compare rates instantly online NOW at catholicmedicaresupp.com or call 1-844-633-6565.

• Shop & apply online
• Multiple plans to meet your budget
• Use your same doctors*

If you think you are paying too much for your Medicare Supplement Insurance, we dare you to compare.

Go to catholicmedicaresupp.com or call 1-844-633-6565.

Catholic Life Insurance is neither connected with or endorsed by the US government or the federal Medicare program.

*You may use your same doctors as long as they accept Medicare. **Your certificate cannot be canceled. It will be renewed as long as the premiums are paid on time and the information on your application does not contain a material misrepresentation.
Abuse crisis discussed at synod, will top bishops’ agenda

By Cindy Wooden | Catholic News Service

While the clerical sexual abuse crisis did not dominate discussions at the Synod of Bishops on young people, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston said it was discussed, and everyone in the room clearly believed the crisis needs to be handled.

Cardinal DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, spoke to Catholic News Service Oct. 22 as the synod was winding down and preparations for the U.S. bishops’ November general meeting moved into high gear.

The agenda for the November meeting includes many items for dealing with the abuse crisis and, particularly, the issue of bishops’ behavior and accountability, Cardinal DiNardo said.

One suggestion the bishops will examine, he said, is to draw up “a code of conduct for bishops,” similar to those that most dioceses have for priests and for lay employees. Another would be to establish a “third-party reporting system” that would allow someone with an abuse complaint against a bishop to report him to someone not connected with his diocese or the bishops’ conference.

“All of these involve issues that we are going to have to discern,” the cardinal said. “We want to do something that will help intensify our commitment to change.”

For any real change to take place, he said, the bishops must collaborate with each other and with lay experts. Cardinal DiNardo said the bishops would begin their meeting Nov. 12 with some introductory business, but then would go directly into a day of prayer and fasting focused on the abuse crisis.

Many of the items the bishops were due to consider at the November meeting, he said, will be postponed to devote more time to considering concrete steps to take in response to the abuse crisis. However, he said, they will vote on the proposed statement, “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love — A Pastoral Letter Against Racism.”

The cardinal also said the U.S. bishops will start 2019 with a spiritual retreat to pray and reflect on the important matters facing the Catholic Church.

Set for Jan. 2-8 at Mundelein Seminary near Chicago, the retreat was planned in response to Pope Francis’ request during the cardinal’s meeting with him at the Vatican Sept. 13.

Cardinal DiNardo is a veteran of the Synod of Bishops. The gathering Oct. 3-28 on young people, the faith and vocational discernment was his third synod.

“One of the best parts of this synod is obvious: the young people,” he said. The 34 synod observers under the age of 30 “are lively, they applaud sometimes. They take a great interest in the speakers. They have been a very, very important part of the language groups,” where synod members, observers and experts make recommendations for the gathering’s final document.

The young adults are serious about the church “listening to them, the church being attentive to them,” he said. “They also are not opposed to the church’s teaching necessarily at all. They want to be heard and listened to, but they also want to draw on the vast beauty and tradition of the church and do some listening of their own.”

In his speech to the synod, Cardinal DiNardo asked the final synod document include a reference to how following Jesus includes a willingness to embrace his life-giving cross.

Young people are not afraid of a challenge, the cardinal said. “They may not always ‘get’ things of the church, but they know who Jesus is and Jesus is not mediocre; he doesn’t want you and me to be mediocre. He wants us to follow him to the cross and only then to glory.”

Cardinal DiNardo said he was struck at the synod by the variety of young people and especially the variety of their experiences, including experiences of being persecuted for their Christian faith or the challenges of being part of a Christian minority.

“Young people are much more serious than I think we give them credit for,” he said. And, hearing a young person’s story of faith probably is the most effective way to evangelize other young people.
Justice Department opens investigation into Pennsylvania abuse

By Matthew Gambino | Catholic News Service

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has received a subpoena as part of a federal grand jury investigating allegations of child sexual abuse and a cover-up of such claims, church officials confirmed Oct. 18.

The subpoena “requires the production of certain documents,” said Ken Gavin, archdiocesan spokesperson, and the archdiocese “will cooperate with the United States Department of Justice in this matter.”

The same day, the Diocese of Harrisburg released a statement saying it “will cooperate fully with this inquiry, just as it has with the Office of Attorney General’s investigation,” which resulted in the release last summer of a statewide grand jury report on allegations of sex abuse by priests and other church workers.

“The diocese has worked to be open and transparent regarding the issue of church workers. The same day, the Diocese of Harrisburg released a statement saying it “will cooperate fully with this inquiry, just as it has with the Office of Attorney General’s investigation,” which resulted in the release last summer of a statewide grand jury report on allegations of sex abuse by priests and other church workers.

“The diocese has worked to be open and transparent regarding the issue of church workers,” said Ken Gavin, archdiocesan spokesperson, and the archdiocese “will cooperate with the United States Department of Justice in this matter.”

The federal investigation follows the release Aug. 14 of a statewide grand jury report on clerical sexual abuse in the church and decisions by bishops to conceal, transfer or shield alleged abusers. The 18-month investigation under Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro uncovered sexual abuse claims on a vast scale, detailing some 1,000 cases of alleged abuse by 300 priests and other church workers dating back 70 years. Most of the cases took place from the 1960s through the 1980s.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia was not part of that investigation. It had previously been investigated by a grand jury in 2005, which revealed alleged abuse by more than 60 priests over several decades, and again in 2011. The latter led to the conviction of Msgr. William Lynn, former archdiocesan vicar for clergy. He served most of his sentence before the conviction was overturned in 2016 by the state Supreme Court.

Each grand jury report led to additional reforms in church policies for handling alleged abusers — including posting the names of credibly accused clergy on the archdiocese’s website — and to an improved response to victims of abuse.

In 2002, the archdiocese, along with most Catholic dioceses in the U.S., implemented safe environment policies that mandated training of church workers and volunteers to protect children and youth, and educated children and adults appropriately to raise awareness of abuse and to make reports of suspected abuse immediately to law enforcement authorities.

Also not included in last summer’s grand jury report was the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, which was probed for clerical sexual abuse in 2016. As a result of that investigation, it too posted the names of credibly accused priests on its website. The practice was implemented in the other six dioceses only after the release in August of the statewide grand jury’s report.

The 23 jurors of that investigation culled a half-million documents and interviewed numerous people, including church workers and prelates, in producing their 884-page report, that led to only two indictments and one conviction of a priest.

Almost all the cases in the eight dioceses are time-barred from prosecution and civil action under Pennsylvania’s statutes of limitation.

Legislation to open a “window” on the statutes, which would allow retroactive civil lawsuits to be brought for up to two years, passed overwhelmingly in the state House of Representatives earlier this year.

But the state Senate did not bring up the bill — S.B. 261 — for a vote Oct. 17, the last day of the chamber’s session. The bill effectively is dead at this time as the Pennsylvania legislative session has ended.
The precipitous decline in the number of women in religious life has declined by 75 percent since 1965 with no change in the trend expected.


The workshop, “Fidelity to the Journey: Together in Communion,” was sponsored by the Resource Center for Religious Institutes under a grant from the GHR Foundation.

Mercy Sister Sharon Euart, the resource center’s executive director, said participants agreed not to invite the press to the workshop to allow for frank and open discussion but to release a report afterward. About 50 people attended the gathering, including Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. It was the first national gathering among bishops and women religious to discuss diminishing vocations.

“It was not only important, but also timely to connect the experience of these leaders and their communities to diocesan bishops in a way that contributes to the bishops’ understanding of the experience of diminishment — not a notion we are comfortable with, yet it is a shared reality — and its impact not only on the religious institute and its members, but also on the local church,” Sister Euart said in a statement.

The number of women religious in the U.S. has declined from a peak of 181,421 in 1965 to 47,160 in 2016, National Religious Retirement Office statistics show. About 77 percent of women religious are older than 70.

As many as 300 of the 420 religious institutes in the U.S. are in their last decades of existence because of aging membership and declining vocations, officials said.

Despite the trend, participants said they came away inspired.

“There really was a presence of the Spirit in the room. You could experience it from the time the sessions began,” Sister Euart said in an interview. “The openness of each person was truly the work of the Spirit. It was a great opportunity to share with one another and recognize how far we’ve come in working together.”

Sister Carol Zinn, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia and executive director of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, said part of the awe and wonder of the event was the mutual recognition of how the transformation of religious life is changing the entire church.

“It’s not just about a religious congregation that’s selling its motherhouse. It’s about more than that,” Sister Zinn said. “You wouldn’t expect this topic to be so life-giving.”

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, said the grief and loss are real, but so is the peace many congregations have found in the completion process.

“It was a very healthy conversation, a true dialogue, grounding in our deep respect for women and men religious and the contributions they’ve made,” Archbishop Kurtz said. “I came away inspired and encouraged.”

Cardinal Tobin also said he was moved by the peace sisters have found in planning for the fulfillment of their mission.

“There’s a sadness at the realization that the death of a congregation often means the disappearance of a particular charism in the church ... but there is a great serenity among the women,” he told Global Sisters Report.

He said while grieving is a necessary part of the transition process, a congregation should not grieve alone.

“It must be shared with the local church,” he said in the statement.

“People will remember us if we are true to who we are.”
Saints risk all for love of Jesus, pope says at canonization Mass

By Cindy Wooden | Catholic News Service

Carrying Pope Paul VI’s pastoral staff and wearing the blood-stained belt of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, Pope Francis formally recognized them, and five others, as saints of the Catholic Church.

Thousands of pilgrims from the new saints’ home countries — Italy, El Salvador, Spain and Germany — were joined by tens of thousands of others Oct. 14 in St. Peter’s Square to celebrate the universal recognition of the holiness of men and women they already knew were saints.

Carolina Escamilla, who traveled from San Salvador for canonization, said she was “super happy” to be in Rome. “I don’t think there are words to describe all that we feel after such a long-awaited and long-desired moment like the ‘official’ canonization, because Archbishop Romero was already a saint when he was alive.”

Each of the new saints lived lives marked by pain and criticism — including from within the church — but all of them dedicated themselves with passionate love to following Jesus and caring for the weak and the poor, Pope Francis said in his homily.

The new saints are: Paul VI, who led the last sessions of the Second Vatican Council and its initial implementation; Romero, who defended the poor, called for justice and was assassinated in 1980; Vincenzo Romano, an Italian priest who died in 1831; Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa, a Spanish nun who ministered in Mexico and Bolivia and died in 1943; Catherine Kasper, the 19th-century German founder of a religious order; Francesco Spinelli, a 19th-century priest and founder of a religious order; and Nunzio Sulprizio, a layman priest and founder of a religious order; and Nunzio Sulprizio, a layman.

The day’s Gospel reading recounted the story of the rich young man who said he followed all the commandments and precepts of Jewish law, but he asks Jesus what more he must do to have eternal life.

“In his homily, Pope Francis said that ‘Jesus is radical.”

“He gives all and he asks all; he gives a love that is total and asks for an undivided heart,” the pope said. “Even today he gives himself to us as the living bread; can we give him crumbs in exchange?”

Jesus, he said, “is not content with a ‘percentage of love.’ We cannot love him 20 or 50 or 60 percent. It is either all or nothing,” because “our heart is like a magnet — it lets itself be attracted by love, but it can cling to one master only and it must choose: either it will love God or it will love the world’s treasure; either it will live for love or it will live for itself.”

“A leap forward in love,” he said, is what would enable individual Christians and the whole church to escape “compacency and self-indulgence.”

Without passionate love, he said, “we find joy in some fleeting pleasure, we close ourselves off in useless gossips, we settle into the monotony of a Christian life without momentum where a little narcissism covers over the sadness of remaining unfulfilled.”

The day’s Gospel reading recounted the story of the rich young man who said he followed all the commandments and precepts of Jewish law, but he asks Jesus what more he must do to have eternal life.

“Jesus’ answer catches him off guard,” the pope said. “The Lord looks upon him and loves him. Jesus changes the perspective from commandments observed in order to obtain a reward, to a free and total love.”

“In effect, he said, Jesus is telling the young man that not doing evil is not enough, nor is it enough to give a little charity or say a few prayers. Following Jesus means giving him absolute first place in one’s life. ‘He asks you to leave behind what weighs down your heart, to empty yourself of goods in order to make room for him, the only good.’”

“Do we content ourselves with a few commandments or do we follow Jesus as lovers, really prepared to leave behind something for him?” the pope asked people gathered in St. Peter’s Square, including the 267 members of the Synod of Bishops and the 34 young people who are observers at the gathering.

“A heart unburdened by possessions, that freely loves the Lord, always spreads joy, that joy for which there is so much need today,” Pope Francis said. “Today Jesus invites us to return to the source of joy, which is the encounter with him, the courageous choice to risk everything to follow him, the satisfaction of leaving something behind in order to embrace his way.”
**BISHOP’S INTERVIEW**

**May we do all within our power to fight the evil of sexual abuse**

Editor: The bishops of Texas recently announced they would release the names of clergy who have sexually abused minors. Tell us more about this important decision that you and the other bishops of Texas have made.

Bishop Vásquez: The bishops of Texas came together in September and decided to release this information in response to the call from the people for greater accountability and transparency. All the bishops in Texas — the 15 dioceses in our state and the Ordinary of the Chair of St. Peter — made the commitment to release the names of clergy, from 1950 forward, who have been credibly accused of sexually abusing a minor by Jan. 31, 2019.

We made this decision for the good of the church and to help the victims of sexual abuse find healing and peace. My hope in releasing these names is to be transparent and begin to rebuild trust with the people I shepherd.

Editor: How soon will the names be released?

Bishop Vásquez: The diocese is in the process of bringing on an independent investigator who will review our clergy files for credible allegations of sexual abuse against minors. Our expectation is to have a list of names to be released in January.

Editor: How can the average Catholic be assured that the cover up of such abuse will not happen again?

Bishop Vásquez: First, since 2002, all the dioceses in the U.S. have followed the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Even before the charter was established, our diocese began the Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM) program, which requires all people in ministry, including clergy, to undergo training and a criminal background check every three years. The diocese has trained more than 79,400 people through our EIM program. By educating our clergy and our laity on sexual abuse, we hope to stop it from happening or from continuing.

Second, the bishops must work with the laity to make sure every case of abuse is handled correctly. We need the guidance of the laity to address this issue. As bishops, we cannot continue to function as we have as we have in the past. Obviously, that system has failed. As a bishop, I sincerely apologize for the harm caused by those who have failed to protect children, minors and the vulnerable. I am committed to doing everything I can to protect our children. With the help of professionals and lay people, we will work together to continue the process of healing and justice for those who have been affected by the evil of sexual abuse.

Editor: The sexual abuse crisis has caused so much unrest in Catholics. What do you say to those who are struggling with their faith?

Bishop Vásquez: First of all, I am deeply sorry our people have had to undergo this painful and heartbreaking moment in the church. Over the last few months, I have spoken to many who are hurting, including laity, pastoral staff, priests and deacons. They, like many others, are outraged, embarrassed and saddened by the evil of abuse and those who have mishandled the abuse cases. This is precisely why the Texas bishops have made the decision to release the names of clergy members who have abused minors. We hope that through our accountability and transparency, we can reassure the faithful and begin to rebuild trust.

The church should be a place where people feel their children will be safe, cared for and protected. As ministers and as clergy, we must be responsible for the protection of our young people. As your bishop, I will work to make our church a place of safety once again.

On Oct. 9, I celebrated a Mass of reparation at St. Mary Cathedral as one way of asking God to heal the victims of sexual abuse by clergy. These are our brothers and sisters who are hurting and suffering. As St. Paul says, we are the one body of Christ. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it. Thus we continue to come together to pray for God’s forgiveness and ask for reparation and healing. As people of faith it is essential that we turn to God and beg for his mercy and forgiveness for the horrible things priests and bishops have done.

We must continue to offer acts of reparation as well. In our Catholic tradition, to make reparation means to offer to God an act of compensation or to make amends for one’s own sins or the sins of others against Christ. The act is a way to repair Christ’s heart, which is wounded by sin. Traditional practices of prayer, fasting and works of charity or almsgiving are acts of reparation that strengthen us not only individually, but also communally as members of the body of Christ.

Editor: You recently returned from the priest convocation where you spent three days with the majority of the priests who serve in our diocese. How are they dealing with the sexual abuse crisis?

Bishop Vásquez: Our priests, like many of our people, are justifiably angry, frustrated and hurting. They want answers. In many ways our priests feel betrayed by bishops. They have been let down by their leaders, and they have a right to feel that way.

Throughout the convocation, we prayed together for our church. I also asked our priests to join me in celebrating Masses of reparation. As priests, our first concern must be for the victims who have suffered abuse. They need healing, and they need the attention of the church. Our priests are committed to and continue to work to protect our children and young people from sexual abuse.

The credibility of the church has been undermined. We cannot simply pretend that it is business as usual. As clergy, and especially as bishops, as we move forward, we must hold one another accountable. We must hold those who have harmed minors accountable for their actions.

Editor: As we move forward into greater transparency what is your prayer for our church?

Bishop Vásquez: First of all, I pray for the victims who have suffered these horrible acts. I ask God to give them healing and peace. May our church be a place where victims find compassion, understanding and support.

In this moment of crisis in the church, we turn to God and ask him to strengthen us to do all within our power to fight the evil of sexual abuse of minors by clergy. I also ask our Blessed Mother and all the saints to assist us in our efforts to bring about conversion in ourselves and others so that we may be witnesses of Jesus Christ in a world that is broken and in need of deep healing.

---

**Pastoral support for victims of sexual abuse**

The Diocese of Austin is committed to providing confidential and compassionate care to victims of sexual abuse, particularly if the abuse was committed by clergy or a church representative. If you have experienced abuse by someone representing the Catholic Church, please contact the diocesan coordinator of victim assistance and pastoral support at (512) 949-2400.

**How to report an incident of concern**

The Diocese of Austin is committed to preventing harm from happening to any of our children or vulnerable adults. Go to www.austindiocese.org/reporting (or call the EIM Office at (512) 949-2447) to learn what to do, and how to report, if you suspect sexual or physical abuse and/or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult; and what to do if the suspected abuse is by clergy, or an employee or volunteer of any diocesan parish, school or agency.

For more information about Ethics and Integrity in Ministry in the Diocese of Austin, visit www.austindiocese.org/eim.

For more information about the Diocese of Austin’s response to the sexual abuse crisis, visit www.austindiocese.org/year-of-reparation.
By Kristen Pierce-Vreeke, LMFT-S and Libby Sittley

There are few that sacrifice more than the men and women of our armed forces, many of whom give their lives to serve and protect our country. The one group that makes an equal or arguably an even greater sacrifice are the husbands, wives, and children, of our country’s service men and women. These family members go without their loved ones sometimes for months at a time and have the benefit of ceaselessly worrying about their safety.

Missed birthdays, anniversaries, first days of school and Christmases are common. While we are grateful for technological aids that allow families to catch glimpses of their loved ones while they are deployed, there is no substitute for the ability of a child to put their arms around the neck of their mother or father. There is no amount of digital conversation or e-mail that can replace the intimacy of a sympathetic look between spouses at the end of a long day or during the day to day business of managing a family. Additionally, many military families face medical, emotional, and financial hardships once they have completed their service and return to civilian society.

The Catholic Charities of Central Texas’ St. Michael’s Veteran Services program, supported by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans’ Assistance, works with these dedicated families to support those who give so much to us by sending us their loved ones. As November is Military Family Appreciation Month, Catholic Charities of Central Texas would like to bring special attention to the immeasurable sacrifice that our nation’s military and their families make just for us and highlight one of the many military families we work with who exemplifies the resiliency of these families.

Recently, John (not his real name), a local veteran, came to Catholic Charities requesting assistance with mounting medical bills and housing debt. John was not able to make ends meet after losing his job because of serious medical issues. His resourcefulness coupled with the assistance he received from Catholic Charities’ St. Michael’s Veteran Services program allowed him to maintain his housing while paying off his debt. He now has a part-time job, has opened a savings account, and is seeking financial counseling services through his bank. John is well on his way to regaining financial stability and independence.

Additionally, Catholic Charities will proudly feature a military family who will share their story at the 2018 Creating Hope in Central Texas Luncheon on Nov. 29 at the AT&T Conference Center in Austin. The uplifting, inspirational event shares the mission of Catholic Charities of Central Texas as we work in partnership with individuals and families throughout our 25-county area to eliminate poverty.

In honor of these extraordinary families, we salute our active military and veterans and their families, and we encourage you to say thanks to friends, family and neighbors who have served our country so bravely this month. To learn more about the St. Michael’s Veteran Services or to attend Creating Hope Luncheon, visit www.ccctx.org or call (512) 651-6100.

---

**SPECIAL COLLECTION**

May we support the sacrifices made by our military families

By Kristen Pierce-Vreeke, LMFT-S and Libby Sittley

The special collection for the Holy Land was taken up in parishes on Good Friday. The collection helps support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Totals are listed below by deanery. To report an error, contact the diocesan Finance Office at (512) 949-2423.
### SPECIAL COLLECTION

**Collection for Seminarian and Priestly Formation**

The special collection for the Formation and Education of Seminarians and Priests was taken up in parishes on April 21-22. Totals are listed below by deanery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARISH</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUSTIN CENTRAL DEANERY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, Cristo Rey</td>
<td>$2,761.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, Holy Cross</td>
<td>$687.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, Sacred Heart</td>
<td>$3,656.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
<td>$830.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Austin</td>
<td>$2,294.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Ignatius</td>
<td>$4,642.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, Santa Barbara</td>
<td>$1,240.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Julia</td>
<td>$556.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Mary Cathedral</td>
<td>$3,664.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, San Jose</td>
<td>$3,027.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin Central Deanery Totals</td>
<td>$23,359.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUSTIN NORTH DEANERY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, Holy Vietnamese Martyrs</td>
<td>$4,130.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Albert the Great</td>
<td>$4,047.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Louis</td>
<td>$5,276.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Theresa</td>
<td>$4,677.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Thomas More</td>
<td>$15,762.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Park, St. Margaret Mary</td>
<td>$7,448.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lago Vista, Our Lady of the Lake</td>
<td>$1,553.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin North Deanery Totals</td>
<td>$46,626.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUSTIN SOUTH DEANERY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, Dolores</td>
<td>$1,253.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Andrew Kim</td>
<td>$243.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Catherine of Siena</td>
<td>$6,042.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. John Neumann</td>
<td>$9,186.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Paul</td>
<td>$3,012.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, St. Peter the Apostle</td>
<td>$1,774.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin, San Francisco Javier</td>
<td>$1,754.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeview, Emmaus</td>
<td>$3,686.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stony Point, San Juan Diego</td>
<td>$129.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin South Deanery Totals</td>
<td>$28,480.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASTROP/LOCKHART DEANERY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bastrop, Ascension</td>
<td>$2,631.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elgin, Sacred Heart</td>
<td>$1,227.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PARISH** | **TOTALS**
--- | ---
Lockhart, St. Mary of the Visitation | $1,789.76
Luling, St. John | $579.44
Martindale, Immaculate Heart | $344.00
Rockne, Sacred Heart | $1,990.20
Smithville, St. Paul | $1,469.00
String Prairie, Assumption | $377.00
Uihland, St. Michael | $416.00
Bastrop/Lockhart Deanery Totals | $18,824.06

**PARISH** | **TOTALS**
--- | ---
Brenham/La Grange DEANERY | $2,117.21
Chappell Hill, St. Stanislaus | $456.06
Dime Box, St. Joseph | $540.00
Ellinger/Hestyn Hill, St. Mary | $851.00
Fayetteville, St. John | $1,776.00
Giddings, St. Margaret | $1,168.00
La Grange, Sacred Heart | $1,798.00
Lexington, Holy Family | $280.00
Old Washington on the Brazos, St. Mary | $49.00
Pin Oak, St. Mary | $229.50
Rockdale, St. Joseph | $886.00
Somerville, St. Ann | $531.51
Brenham/La Grange Deanery Totals | $10,681.28

**PARISH** | **TOTALS**
--- | ---
Bellton, Christ the King | $2,699.00
Burlington, St. Michael | $116.00
Cameron, St. Monica | $393.00
Copperas Cove, Holy Family | $3,692.81
Cyclone, St. Joseph | $506.00
Harker Heights, St. Paul Chong Hasang | $5,207.73
Kileen, St. Joseph | $4,259.36
Marik, St. Cyril and Methodius | $221.00
Rogers, St. Matthew | $328.00
Rosebud, St. Ann | $295.31
Salado, St. Stephen | $1,622.00
Temple, Our Lady of Guadalupe | $1,300.00
Temple, St. Luke | $2,436.00
Temple, St. Mary | $1,985.75
Westphalia, Visitation | $755.00
Kileen/Temple Deanery Totals | $25,816.96

**PARISH** | **TOTALS**
--- | ---
Lampasas, St. Mary | $695.41
Llano, Holy Trinity | $652.56
Marble Falls, St. John | $2,643.68
Mason, St. Joseph | $603.50
San Saba, St. Mary | $311.25
Summerville, Our Lady of the Lake | $239.00
Lampasas/Marble Falls Deanery Totals | $8,299.40

**PARISH** | **TOTALS**
--- | ---
Bryan/College Station DEANERY | $1,864.70
Taylor, Our Lady of Guadalupe | $265.64
Taylor, St. Mary of the Assumption | $1,434.60
Georgetown/Round Rock Totals | $39,263.75

**KILLEEN/TEMPLE DEANERY**

**PARISH** | **TOTALS**
--- | ---
Bryan/College Station DEANERY | $1,864.70
Taylor, Our Lady of Guadalupe | $265.64
Taylor, St. Mary of the Assumption | $1,434.60
Georgetown/Round Rock Totals | $39,263.75

**PARISH** | **TOTALS**
--- | ---
Blanco, St. Ferdinand | $778.60
Buda, Santa Cruz | $3,664.00
Dripping Springs, St. Martin de Porres | $2,038.19
Johnson City, Good Shepherd | $283.27
Kyle, St. Anthony Marie de Claret | $3,474.91
San Marcos, Our Lady of Wisdom | $666.14
San Marcos, St. John | $3,302.00
Wimberley, St. Mary | $1,540.46
San Marcos Deanery Totals | $10,745.56

**WACO DEANERY**

**PARISH** | **TOTALS**
--- | ---
China Spring, St. Phillip | $324.25
Hamilton, St. Thomas | $3,684.91
Lott, Sacred Heart | $120.00
McGregor, St. Eugene | $380.00
Martin, St. Joseph | $786.00
Mexia, St. Mary | $700.61
Waco, Sacred Heart | $1,458.99
Waco, St. Francis on the Brazos | $1,300.00
Waco (Hewitt), St. Jerome | $3,084.91
Waco, St. John the Baptist | $300.00
Waco, Belmead, St. Joseph | $964.22
Waco, St. Louis | $5,315.00
Waco, St. Mary of the Assumption | $1,063.75
Waco, St. Thomas Catholic Center | $363.00
West, Church of the Assumption | $1,116.00
Waco Deanery Totals | $17,201.73

Grand Totals | $243,997.79

Creating Hope brings our community together to provide support for Catholic Charities’ mission to end poverty throughout the Central Texas. We invite you to participate and CREATE HOPE in our community by sharing amazing stories of those we serve.

**RSVP to attend, give or lead others to join us by calling Kristen Erdem at 512-651-6132 or email kristen-erdem@ccctx.org. or Cathy Olson Muth at 512-651-6158 or cathy-muth@ccctx.org.**

www.CCCTX.org/CreatingHopeCentralTexas

**GOOD NEWS**

**CATHOLIC SPIRIT**
Saints for Our Times

St. Joseph Pignatelli helped restore the Jesuits in the 18th century

By Mary Lou Gibson | Columnist

For more than 40 years (1773-1814), the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) was formally suppressed in several European countries. The trouble began in April 1767 when Spanish King Charles III issued an edict expelling the Jesuits from his kingdom and confiscating their property.

Editor Bernard Bangley writes in “Butler’s Lives of the Saints” King Charles considered the Jesuits to be against his control and power, both in Spain and in the Spanish colonies. At the same time, Pope Clement XIV had been under considerable political pressure from several European monarchs to suppress the Jesuits in Portugal, France, the Two Sicilies, Parma and the Spanish Empire.

Father Joseph Pignatelli, a Spanish Jesuit, was among the more than 23,000 Jesuits affected by the suppression. He was born at Saragossa, Spain, in 1737 and orphaned at age 9. He joined the Jesuits at Tarragona at the age of 16. During his student years, Joseph contracted tuberculosis and was in poor health the rest of his life.

Ordained in 1763, Father Joseph was forced to leave Spain after King Charles III’s edict. He joined 5,000 other Spanish Jesuits at the Catalan border where they boarded overcrowded ships and sailed for three weeks, looking for a port that would accept them.

Not only were Father Joseph and his fellow Jesuits exiled, they had also been secularized by the pope’s brief “Dominus ac Redemptor” (“Lord and Saviour”) issued in 1773 dissolving the society. He finally found refuge in Bologna where he lived for the next 20 years counseling his secularized brothers and keeping the spirit of the order alive.

Some years later, Father Joseph learned that Catherine the Great refused to enforce the suppression in Russia. David Farmer writes in the “Oxford Dictionary of Saints” the Jesuits continued to exist there and a foundation was made in Parma under the protection of its duke.

Richard McBrien writes in “Lives of the Saints” that Father Joseph wrote to the superior of the Jesuits there and asked for readmission. He renewed his vows in 1797 and was made master of novices in 1799 at Colorno, the only Jesuit novitiate in Western Europe at that time. Shortly thereafter, Pope Pius VII gave formal approval to the Jesuit province in Russia.

The rapid growth of the Jesuits and their success in education and mission work were among some of the reasons the Society of Jesus came into conflict with certain civil powers in the mid-18th century according to the “Catholic Encyclopedia.” Years later, Pope Clement asserted that he suppressed the society because it could no longer attain its original ends and because he wanted peace within the church.

In 1804 the society was re-established in the Kingdom of Naples with Father Joseph as provincial. Shortly thereafter, the French invaded and Father Joseph and his Jesuits were again displaced and forced out of Naples. In 1806, they were welcomed to Rome by Pope Pius VII who subsequently restored the Gesu and Roman College to the society.

Finally, in 1814 Pope Pius VII restored the Society of Jesus throughout the world. Sadly, Father Joseph did not live to see this happen. He died at Rome in November of 1811 and was buried in the church of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Bangley calls Father Joseph Pignatelli the “second founder” of the Society of Jesus and credits him with the survival of the order. Pope Pius XII called him the “restorer of the Jesuits” when he canonized him in 1954. His feast day is Nov. 28.
Norman Farmer, Ph.D, is professor emeritus of English and Humanities at the University of Texas. He writes about the relation of sacred art to Catholic prayer life. He is a parishioner of St. Mary Cathedral in Austin.
Nov. 3: Monthly Mass for Life at 8 a.m. at San Jose Parish in Austin. Prayer vigil after Mass at the church or an abortion facility. Details: www.austindiocese.org/sidewalk-ministry.

Nov. 4: Fatima Trinitarian 20 Decade Rosary is prayed every Sunday at 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Parish in Kyle.

Nov. 7: The Catholic Business Network will meet at St. William Parish in Round Rock. Catholic business professionals are invited to attend and network in an effort to form trusted relationships based on Catholic values. Details: www.catholicbiznetwork.org or rsvp@catholicbiznetwork.org.

Nov. 7: High School Discernment Dinner for teenagers considering the priesthood from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at St. William Parish Rectory in Round Rock. Details: www.godiscalling.me.

Nov. 7: Second annual Adoption Celebration Mass will be held at 7 p.m. in the chapel at St. Louis Parish in Austin. Mass is sponsored by Sarah’s Hope & Abraham’s Promise Ministry. Anyone who has been touched by adoption is invited to attend. Register: www.adoptionmass2018.eventbrite.com or call (512) 736-7334.

Nov. 8: High School Discernment Dinner for teenagers considering the priesthood from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Rectory in Temple. Details: www.godiscalling.me.

Nov. 13: Adult Discernment Dinner for men discerning the priesthood will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Borromeo House in Austin. Details: www.godiscalling.me.

Nov. 16: Monthly Candlelight Rosary at 7:30 p.m. at the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt in Austin. Details: www.schoenstatt.us.

Nov. 18: Inquiry session on the Permanent Diaconate from 2 to 5 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Parish in San Marcos. Sessions will explore the deaconate, discernment methods, qualities and characteristics sought in applicants, the formation journey, the wife’s participation in formation, and the application process. Details: www.austindiocese.org/diaconalformation or (512) 949-2459.

Nov. 21: The Presentation of Mary will be celebrated with Mass at 7 a.m. at the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt in Austin.

Nov. 21: Thanksgiving Day will be celebrated at 6 p.m. at the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt in Austin. The shrine will be open Thanksgiving Day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Nov. 22-23: Diocesan offices will be closed for Thanksgiving.

Nov. 27: #GiveCatholic, online giving day for the Catholic community. Visit: https://giving.givecatholic.org/ to give.

Nov. 29: Catholic Charities of Central Texas will host the 12th annual Creating Hope Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at AT&T Conference Center in Austin. Details: www.cccctx.org or (512) 651-6100.

Dec. 1: A diocesan celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe will begin at 7:30 a.m. at St. Mary Cathedral in Austin. Parish groups are invited to participate. The procession will end at San Jose Parish in Austin, where Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. with fellowship to follow. Details: www.austindiocese.org/olg-celebration.

Dec. 1: Advent Blessing and Tree Lighting at 6 p.m. at the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt in Austin. There will be Christmas carols, hot chocolate and s’mores. Details: www.schoenstatt.us.

Dec. 3: Book Study on the “Screwtop Letters” by C.S. Lewis from 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Mary Cathedral, in the Sheehan Room. This book is a classic masterpiece of religious satire that entertains readers with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the vantage point of a highly placed assistant to the devil.

Parish activities

Nov. 3: St. Luke Parish in Temple will host its 25th annual Craft Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish hall. More than 40 vendors will have a variety of items for sale. Details: (254) 773-1561.

Nov. 16-18: St. Austin Parish in Austin will exhibit Kristallnacht in a museum setting in Newman Hall. This is the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht (The Breaking of the Glass) when the Nazi’s pillaged and burned Jewish books, businesses and homes. Details: pamy@stau.org.

Nov. 17: St. Mary Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lago Vista will host Christmas in November Bazaar and lunch from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 20 arts and crafts vendors will have their wares for sale.

Nov. 17: Catholic Daughters Annual Art & Craft Show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parish hall at St. William Parish in Round Rock. There will be 45 vendors of only homemade/handmade items.

Dec. 1: St. Louis Cougar Chase 5K Run/ Walk and Kids Fun Run will be held at St. Louis Catholic School in Austin. 5K begins at 8 a.m.; Fun Run begins at 9 a.m. Details: https://runsignup.com/cougarchase-signup.

Dec. 2: The 21st annual Work of Human Hands Christmas Sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Center in College Station. There will be high-quality, ethically traded crafts and food produced by small-scale artisans and growers from around the world.

Dec. 8: Fair Trade Market Dec. 9 at St. Ignatius Parish in Austin. Shop to support Catholic social teaching. After Sunday Masses in Family Center.

Days of reflection, spirituality

Nov. 7: Living as the Beloved, a day retreat, will be held at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Belton. Cost is $40 and includes lunch. Details: www.austindiocese.org/cedarbrake or (254) 780-2436.

Nov. 10: Couples Time Out, a morning of prayer and reflection on “Am I making my spouse a sainthood?” will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt in Austin. Babysitting is provided. Register: cto@schoenstatt.us.

Nov. 10-11: Girls ages 13 to 15 are invited to an overnight experience at the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt in Austin from 5 p.m. to 10 a.m. Teen girls are invited to spend time together growing in their faith. Register: rgardner@schoenstatt.us.

Nov. 13: Listening Intentionally will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Eagle’s Wings Retreat Center in Burnet. The cost is $35 per person; a light breakfast and lunch are included. Register: www.ewrc.org.

Nov. 17: Girls Day Camp with Mary will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt in Austin. Girls ages 9 to 12 are invited to spend the day growing closer to Jesus and Mary with crafts, prayer and fun. Register: rgardner@schoenstatt.us.

Nov. 30-Dec. 2: Weekend retreat for women discerning their vocation of marriage and preparing to get married in the Catholic Church. Details: (512) 949-2470 or phi@eustudiocese.org.

Dec. 1: The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist will host a discernment retreat from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Joseph Convent in Buda. Catholic women (ages 16 to 32) who have an openness to seeking a deeper relationship with Christ and a desire to know the path of holiness to which God is calling them are invited to this retreat. The cost is $25 per person. Details: www.sistersofmary.org/events/2018-texas-vocational-discernment-retreat.

Dec. 5: Annual Advent Dinner at 6 p.m. at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Belton. Franciscan Father Albert Haase, Cedarbrake’s new chaplain, will be the keynote speaker. The cost is $25 per person. Details: www.austindiocese.org/cedarbrake or (254) 780-2436.

Dec. 7-8: St. Martin de Porres Parish in Dripping Springs will host a Two Day Equipping session. This two-day training, presented by the John Paul II Healing Center, is designed to equip and prepare participants to do the works Jesus did through out his ministry on earth. Details: equipping.stmartindp@gmail.com. Register: www.jpithealingcenter.org.

Dec. 7: The Silent Advent Retreat at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Belton is a weekend of silence and solitude combined with communal prayer and Mass. Cost is $210 per person for a private room. Details: www.austindiocese.org/cedarbrake or (254) 780-2436.

Dec. 11: Food, Family and Faith, a day of spirituality, will be held Dec. 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Eagle’s Wings Retreat Center in Burnet. The cost is $35 per person; a light breakfast and lunch are included. Register: www.ewrc.org.

Dec. 14-16: Heart of Jesus Discernment Retreat will be held at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Belton. Details: www.godiscalling.me.
Official schedules

The official schedules for Bishop Joe Vásquez and Bishop Daniel Garcia are listed below. Dates and times are subject to change.

Nov. 2: Finance Council Meeting, Pastoral Center, 11 a.m.
Nov. 5: Secretariat Directors’ Retreat
Nov. 6: Monthly Budget Meeting, Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
Capital Campaign Cabinet Meeting, Pastoral Center, 10:30 a.m.
Nov. 7: Catholic Foundation Annual Meeting, Pastoral Center, 11 a.m.
Nov. 8: Secretariat Directors, Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.
Nov. 9-15: USCCB Committee Meetings and General Assembly, Baltimore
Nov. 17: Confirmation, St. Albert the Great Parish, Austin, 10 a.m.
Nov. 18: Mass, St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Church, Manor, 8 a.m.
iAct Thanksgiving Service, San José Parish, Austin, 3 p.m.

Nov. 2: Interviews with Diocesan Candidates, Pastoral Center
Vocations Meeting, Pastoral Center, 1:30 p.m.
Nov. 2: Interviews with Diocesan Candidates, Pastoral Center
Nov. 27: Presbyteral Council, Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.

Nov. 28: Mass and Visit, St. Dominic Savio High School, Austin, 9:50 a.m.
Advent Dinner with Diocesan Finance and Building Councils, Austin, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 29: Catholic Charities’ “Creating Hope” Luncheon, AT&T Center, Austin, noon
Dec. 1: Mass for Diocesan Celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe, San José Parish, Austin, 10 a.m.
Dec. 2: Confirmation, St. Joseph Parish, Bryan, 10 a.m.
Dec. 4: Advent Day of Prayer for Priests, Cedarbrake, Belton
Dec. 5: Mass and Dinner, Justice for Immigrants Convening, Virginia, 4 p.m.
Dec. 8: Mass, St. Mary Cathedral, Austin, 9 a.m.
Advent Dinner with Diocesan Staff, Austin, 6 p.m.
Dec. 9: Confirmation, University Catholic Center, Austin, 9 a.m.
Dec. 10: Advent Day of Prayer for Diocesan Staff
Dec. 11: Meeting with Ascension Health Leadership, Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.
Midnight Mass for Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Austin
Dec. 13: Catholic Foundation Meeting, Pastoral Center, 11 a.m.
Advent Dinner with Priests, St. Louis Parish, Austin, 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 14: Monthly Budget Meeting, Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.

Interviews with Diocesan Candidates
Dec. 15: Mass and Blessing of Chapel, Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist Convent, Georgetown, 10 a.m.
Dec. 16: Seminarian Christmas Gathering, Austin, 5 p.m.

Auxiliary Bishop
Bishop Daniel E. Garcia

Nov. 2: Finance Council, Pastoral Center, 11 a.m.
Nov. 3: Adult Confirmation, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Austin, 10:30 a.m.
Nov. 8: Secretariat Directors Retreat
Nov. 8: Monthly Budget Meeting, Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
Capital Campaign Cabinet Meeting, Pastoral Center, 10:30 a.m.
Nov. 7: Catholic Foundation Annual Meeting, Austin, 11 a.m.
Blessing of New Buildings, St. Edward’s University, Austin, 2 p.m.
Nov. 8: Secretariat Directors, Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.
Campus Ministry Directors Meeting, Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.
Nov. 9: Catholic Charities “Creating Hope” Luncheon, AT&T Center, Austin, noon
Nov. 20: Confirmation, Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel, St. Edward’s University, Austin, 200 p.m.
Dec. 4: Advent Day of Prayer for Priests, Cedarbrake, Belton
Vocation Team Meeting, Cedarbrake, Belton, 2:30 p.m.
Dec. 6: Capital Campaign Pastors Advisory Committee, Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.
Dec. 8: Advent Dinner with Diocesan Staff, Austin, 6 p.m.
Dec. 10: Advent Day of Prayer for Staff
Dec. 13: Catholic Foundation Meeting, Pastoral Center, 11 a.m.
Advent Dinner with Priests, St. Louis Parish, Austin, 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 14: Monthly Budget Meeting, Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
Diocesan Building Commission, Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.
Dec. 15: Mass and Blessing of Chapel, Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist Convent, Georgetown, 10 a.m.

Msgr. Victor Goertz, one of the Austin Diocese’s beloved, retired priests, recently autographed and wrote a personal message in another batch of 100 of his “Meandering through the Mystery” books.

Get your signed copy of Msgr. Goertz’ book today by sending in the coupon below.

Order your copy today! Mail the following information as well as a check for $10 (made payable to Diocese of Austin) to Communications Office, 6225 Hwy. 290 East, Austin, TX 78723. Please allow 6 weeks for delivery.

Name (first and last):___________________________
Address:_____________________________________
City:_________________________ State:_________ ZIP:_________

To advertise, contact Shelley Metcalf at catholic-spirit@austindiocese.org or (512) 949-2443.
Editora: Los obispos de Texas recientemente anunciaron que darán a conocer los nombres de miembros del clero que han abusado sexualmente de menores. ¿Diganos más sobre esta importante decisión que usted y los otros obispos han tomado?

Obispo Vásquez: Los obispos de Texas nos reunimos en septiembre y decidimos revelar esta información en respuesta al llamado de la gente a una mayor responsabilidad y transparencia. Todos los obispos de Texas y las 15 diócesis en nuestro estado y el Ordinariato de la Silla de San Pedro — han hecho el compromiso de dar a conocer, para el 31 de enero de 2019, los nombres del clero, que de 1950 en adelante, ha sido creíblemente acusado de abusar sexualmente de un menor.

Hemos tomado esta decisión por el bien de la iglesia y para ayudar más a las víctimas de abuso sexual a encontrar sanación y paz. Mi esperanza al revelar estos nombres es que sean transparencia y comenzar a reconstruir la confianza con la gente que pastoreo. Para mí, la clave es regresar con frecuencia a un compromiso de dar a conocer la verdad, y no solo a nuestros sacerdotes, sino también a laicos y personal que han servido en la diócesis.

Editora: ¿Cómo están lidiando en la diócesis ¿Qué le dice usted a aquellos que están luchando con su fe?

Obispo Vásquez: Primero que nada, siento profundamente que nuestras acciones hayan tenido que pasar por este doloroso y triste momento en la iglesia. Durante los últimos meses, he hablado con muchos de ellos, incluyendo laicos, personal pastoral, sacerdotes y diáconos. Ellos, como muchos otros, están enojados, avergonzados y entristecidos por la maldad del abuso y por aquellos que han manejado mal los casos de abuso. Esta es precisamente la razón por la que hemos tomado la decisión de dar a conocer los nombres de miembros del clero que han abusado de menores.

Hagamos un esfuerzo para dar a conocer la verdad y para ayudar a aquellos que han sido afectados por la maldad del abuso sexual.

Editora: La crisis del abuso sexual ha causado mucha inquietud entre los Católicos. ¿Qué les dice usted a aquellos que están luchando con su fe?

Obispo Vásquez: Primero que nada, siento profundamente que nuestras acciones hayan tenido que pasar por este doloroso y triste momento en la iglesia. Durante los últimos meses, he hablado con muchos de ellos, incluyendo laicos, personal pastoral, sacerdotes y diáconos. Ellos, como muchos otros, están enojados, avergonzados y entristecidos por la maldad del abuso y por aquellos que han manejado mal los casos de abuso. Esta es precisamente la razón por la que hemos tomado la decisión de dar a conocer los nombres de miembros del clero que han abusado de menores.

Hagamos un esfuerzo para dar a conocer la verdad y para ayudar a aquellos que han sido afectados por la maldad del abuso sexual.

Editora: Usted regresó recientemente de la convocación sacerdotal en la que usted pasó tres días con la mayoría de los obispos que sirven en la diócesis. ¿Cómo están lidiando usted y la diócesis con la crisis del abuso sexual?

Obispo Vásquez: Nuestros sacerdotes, como muchos de nuestra gente, están justificadamente enojados, frustrados y lastimados. Ellos quieren respuestas. En varias maneras nuestras iglesias sacerdotes se sienten traicionados por los obispos. Han sido decepcionados por sus líderes, y tienen el derecho de sentirse así.

La iglesia debe ser un lugar donde la gente sienta que sus hijos están a salvo, que se les cuida y protege. Como obispo, quiero decirles que en nuestra diócesis estamos comprometidos con la protección de nuestros jóvenes. Queremos que nuestro clero y nuestros laicos sobre el abuso sexual, esperamos detener que suceda o que continúe.

Segundo, los obispos deben trabajar con los laicos para asegurarse de que cada caso de abuso es manejado correctamente. Necesitamos la guía de los laicos para abordar el tema. Como obispos, no podemos continuar funcionando como lo hemos hecho en el pasado. Obviamente, el sistema ha fallado. Como un obispo, sinceramente me disculpo por el daño que ha sido causado por aquellos que han fallado en proteger a los niños, menores y a los vulnerables. Estoy comprometido en hacer todo lo que pueda para proteger a nuestros niños. Con la ayuda de profesionales y laicos, trabajaremos juntos para continuar el proceso de sanación y justicia para aquellos que han sido afectados por la maldad del abuso sexual.

Editora: ¿Cuál es su oración por nuestra iglesia?

Obispo Vásquez: Antes que nada, quiero decirles que en nuestro clero y nuestros laicos sobre el abuso sexual, esperamos detener que suceda o que continúe. En el pasado, hemos hecho todo lo que está en nuestro poder para pelear contra la maldad del abuso sexual de menores por parte del clero. También pido a nuestra Santísima Madre y a todos los santos que nos ayuden en nuestros esfuerzos para lograr la conversión en nosotros mismos y en los demás para que podamos dar testimonio de Jesucristo en un mundo que está roto y necesitado de una profunda sanación.
El proceso del Encuentro ayuda a sanar heridas, a unir culturas

Por Norma Montenegro Flynn y Shelley Metcalf

Cerca de 3,000 ministros líderes del ministerio hispano han regresado a sus parroquias y diócesis para compartir las ideas y los frutos de las conversaciones que se llevaron a cabo en el Quinto Encuentro Nacional en Grapevine a fines de septiembre.

La próxima fase en el proceso de varios años del Encuentro está enfo- cada en poner en práctica las lecciones aprendidas y dar frutos.

“Esto ha sido como un retiro, el mensaje que nos dieron al final es ‘us- tedes tienen al Espíritu Santo, tienen que llevarlo con ustedes y tienen que ser santos, produzcan frutos de amor,’” dijo la Hermana Maldonado, miembro de las Hermanas Dominicas de la Señora del Rosario de Fátima. Su orden está involucrada con el ministerio familiar sirviendo a parroquias en Maryland y Texas.

En los próximos meses, el equipo de liderazgo del Quinto Encuentro Nacional, o V Encuentro, distribuirá un documento concluyente enlistando las prioridades y problemas identificados a lo largo de 28 áreas ministeriales; el documento asistirá a diócesis, parroquias y estructuras nacionales en la redacción de sus propios planes pastorales de acuerdo a sus propias realidades y prioridades.

El equipo de acompañamiento del Encuentro, o ENAVE, planea conti- nuar proveyendo apoyo y llevando un registro del progreso.

“Hemos logrado cosas que, de alguna manera, nunca hubiéramos imaginado posibles,” dijo Ken Johnson-Mondragon, director de investigación del V Encuentro, a Catholic News Service. “Se han caído muros, la gente ha experimentado realmente el gozo del que el Papa Francisco habla”.

El V proceso del V Encuentro que comenzó hace cuatro años, ha ayudado a miles de líderes del ministerio hispano a involucrarse en diálogos llenos de fe entre ellos y a alcanzar a aquellos en la periferia. El Encuentro también ha promovido colaboraciones dentro y más allá de diócesis, lo que se conoce como ‘pastor en conjunto’ y ha ayudado a remover el miedo de ‘alzar la voz’, acercando a los participantes a sus_pastores y obispos, agregó John- son-Mondragon.

Luisa de Poo, directora asociada de Actividades Pro-Vida de la Diócesis de Austin, ayudó a liderar los esfuer- zos del Encuentro para la Diócesis de Austin. Ella dijo que el proceso del Encuentro ha ayudado a las culturas a ver más allá de sus diferencias.

“Hemos trabajado duro para comunicar que este proceso era para toda la iglesia, no solo para hispanos. Hemos sido testigo de las comunidades hispanas y Anglo uniéndose por el bien mutuo,” dijo de Poo.

El V Encuentro identificó y preparó al menos 25,000 nuevos lideres ministeriales hispanos a lo largo del país, y aproximadamente un tercio de los líderes comprometidos fueron jóvenes y jóvenes adultos. Un estimado de 100,000 individuos participaron en el proceso y cerca de 150,000 fueron alcanzados en las periferias.

“Fue increíble ver el entusiasmo de la gente cuando escucharon el llamado de la iglesia y respondieron a ese llamado con corazones tan humildes,” dijo de Poo.

El proceso ha ayudado a los participantes a sentir la vida hispana a sanar de las profundas heridas causadas por el rechazo y la segregación, dijo.

“Creo que este proceso ha ayudado a la comunidad hispana a tener espe- ranza,” dijo de Poo.

Otra importante ganancia es que el V Encuentro ha capturado la atención y el apoyo de los obispos a nivel nacional. En la reunión, cerca de 125 obispos — hispanos y no hispano — caminaron lado a lado con sus delegaciones diocesanas, y cerca de 160 de 178 diócesis Católicas Romanas y arquidiócesis en el país fueron representadas. El Obispo José Vásquez y el Obispo Auxiliar Daniel Garcia asistieron al V Encuentro. El Obispo Vásquez sirvió como líder episcopal para la Región X.

“Estuvo muy contento de pasar tiempo con nuestros delegados dio- cesanos y con otros de alrededor del país. Hubo más de 3,000 parti- cipantes lo que es un gran signo del testimonio de la fe de nuestra gente,” dijo el Obispo Vásquez. “Vérdadera- mente, el Espíritu Santo estuvo pre- sente en y entre la gente, tal como el Espíritu Santo estuvo presente cuando nos reunimos en Austin para el En- cuentro Diocesano. El V Encuentro es un signo de gran esperanza para nuestra Iglesia en los Estados Unidos”, El Pa- dre Jairo Sandoval, pastor de San José Parish en Austin, dijo que fue refrescente ver a obispos, sacerdotes y hermanos y hermanas religiosas disfrutando con los laicos.

“Los laicos mostraron que tienen las habilidades para ayudar a la iglesia a moverse en la dirección indicada por el Espíritu Santo. Los obispos está- ban agrade- cidos por la ayuda vibrante y fiel que viene de las comunidades hispanas,” dijo el Padre Sandoval.

Las tres recomendaciones más im- portantes que surgieron del Encuentro son la necesidad de desarrollar planes pastorales para el ministerio hispano diseñados de acuerdo a las necesidades de cada parroquia y diócesis; la necesi- dad de la comunidad parroquial para ayudar a fortalecer familias; y contra- tar a más jóvenes adultos hispanos en posiciones pagadas de liderazgo.

Las 28 áreas ministeriales abor- dadas por el V Encuentro incluyen aquellas que alcanzan a la juventud, jóvenes adultos, campus universitar- ios, inmigrantes, familias, personas con discapacidades, y a los encar- celados, así como ministerios en vocaciones, pro-vida, formación de la fe y catequesis, justicia y paz, e incluso cuidado del medio ambiente, entre otros.

Adriana Barfiuelos, una joven adulta, delegada de Encuentro de St. William Parish en Round Rock, dijo que ella sintió el énfasis en los jóvenes adultos a lo largo del proceso del Encuentro.

“Los jóvenes adultos recibieron mucha atención, particularmente en el nivel nacional,” dijo. “Sentí como que nos estaban llamando por nuestro nombre”.

Sonia Vega-Perez, parroquiana de St. Monica Parish en Cameron y delegada del Encuentro, dijo que el proceso del Encuentro ayudó al equipo parroquial a darse cuenta de la importancia del involucramiento de la juventud.

“Nuestros jóvenes son la vida de nuestra parroquia,” dijo. “Incluir a nuestra juventud es vital para el crecimiento y el liderazgo de nuestra iglesia”.

Como un consejo por parte de la Hermana de la Misericordia, Ana María Pineda, que ha sido testigo de todos los Encuentros, es importante conectar los Encuentros previos con el actual, mientras seguimos enfocados en el trabajo del momento en medio de los retos que pueda presentar.

“Estamos siendo llamados a un momento muy especial y necesitamos hacer lo necesario para asegu- rarlos de que estamos del lado de los pobres, del lado de los que no se pueden proteger a sí mismos,” dijo la Hermana Pineda.
Por Carla Smith | Corresponsal

El 1 de diciembre, la Diócesis de Austin ofrecerá una celebración en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y la conexión única y cercana que el Centro de Texas tiene con Nuestra Santísima Madre. "Ciertamente tenemos una relación especial con la Santísima Virgen María," dijo Lily Morales, coordinadora de la Oficina diocesana del Ministerio Hispano. "Tanto que nuestra diócesis fue consagrada y confiada a su cuidado materno en su 70 aniversario de establecimiento. Hoy, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es un recordatorio de su cuidado materno y rechazo de la gente".

Ese amor se celebrará el 1 de diciembre en el centro de Austin con una procesión a las 8 a.m. que comenzará en St. Mary Cathedral y terminará en San José Parish, donde se celebrará una Misa con el obispo José Vásquez. A continuación habrá convivencia y las familias están invitadas a asistir y participar en todas las actividades.

"Celebrar la memoria de María es que nosotros, tal como ella, estamos invitados a salir y encontrar a otros con la misma mirada, misericordia y gestos," dijo Morales. "Ella nos invita a crear lazos en nuestra iglesia local y nuestra comunidad, diciendo 'sí' a la vida y 'no' a la indiferencia, exclusión o rechazo de la gente". A la luz de esto, el tema del evento de este año es el programa Respetemos la Vida, que se enfoca en ayudar a los Católicos a involucrarse en construir una cultura que valora cada vida humana.

"Una manera en la que podemos honrar y seguir a Nuestra Señora más de cerca es trabajar para proteger la santidad de la vida de cada persona en cada etapa y en cada circunstancia," dijo Morales. 

La diócesis anima a las organizaciones y asociaciones Católicas a participar en el evento del 1 de diciembre para que todos los involucrados sientan el amor y la gracia de Nuestra Señora. "Nuestra esperanza es que los fieles en nuestra diócesis experimenten la cercanía y el amor de Nuestra Señora y que, inspirados por su memoria, respondamos al llamado para ayudar a otros a encontrar el amor transformador y vivificante de Dios", dijo Morales.

Para mayor información o para registrarse, visite www.austindiocese.org/olg-celebration o llame al (512) 949-2492.
El Llamado Para Los Servicios Católicos 2018-2019 (CSA) comienza el fin de semana del 3-4 de noviembre. El tema de este año es “El Amor Permanece” basado en este pasaje del Evangelio de Juan: “Como el Padre me amó, así también los he amado yo: permanezcan en mi amor”.

El Obispo José Vázquez dijo que el amor se pone en acción a través del trabajo del CSA. “El amor se convierte en acción cuando la gente visita a los enfermos, cuando cuidamos a los pobres, cuando formamos a nuestros jóvenes en educación religiosa, cuando ayudamos a las parejas fortalezcan sus matrimonios. Ahí es cuando el amor se pone en acción y es cuando el ‘amor permanece,’” dijo el Obispo Vázquez.

El CSA provee de entrenamiento y formación continua para seminaristas, sacerdotes, diáconos, líderes laicos, voluntarios, de oportunidades de formación en la fe para jóvenes, programas para el fortalecimiento de las familias y apoyo para las escuelas Católicas, al igual que para ministerios pro-vida y de justicia social.

Aproximadamente el 44 por ciento del CSA se destinará a la formación del clero para apoyar las necesidades actuales de los seminaristas, sacerdotes y diáconos de la Diócesis de Austin. Alrededor del 20 por ciento del CSA beneficiará la educación Católica y al apoyo a catequistas parroquiales y a los maestros de escuelas Católicas. Este año, el 17 por ciento se destinará a los maestros de escuelas Católicas, al igual que para ministerios pro-vida y de justicia social.

El Llamado Para Los Servicios Católicos 2018-2019 (CSA) comienza el fin de semana del 3-4 de noviembre. El tema de este año es “El Amor Permanece” basado en este pasaje del Evangelio de Juan: “Como el Padre me amó, así también los he amado yo: permanezcan en mi amor”.

El Obispo José Vázquez dijo que el amor se pone en acción a través del trabajo del CSA. “El amor se convierte en acción cuando la gente visita a los enfermos, cuando cuidamos a los pobres, cuando formamos a nuestros jóvenes en educación religiosa, cuando ayudamos a las parejas fortalezcan sus matrimonios. Ahí es cuando el amor se pone en acción y es cuando el ‘amor permanece,’” dijo el Obispo Vázquez.

El CSA provee de entrenamiento y formación continua para seminaristas, sacerdotes, diáconos, líderes laicos, voluntarios, de oportunidades de formación en la fe para jóvenes, programas para el fortalecimiento de las familias y apoyo para las escuelas Católicas, al igual que para ministerios pro-vida y de justicia social.

Aproximadamente el 44 por ciento del CSA se destinará a la formación del clero para apoyar las necesidades actuales de los seminaristas, sacerdotes y diáconos de la Diócesis de Austin. Alrededor del 20 por ciento del CSA beneficiará la educación Católica y al apoyo a catequistas parroquiales y a los maestros de escuelas Católicas. Este año, el 17 por ciento se destinará a los maestros de escuelas Católicas, al igual que para ministerios pro-vida y de justicia social.

El Llamado Para Los Servicios Católicos 2018-2019 (CSA) comienza el fin de semana del 3-4 de noviembre. El tema de este año es “El Amor Permanece” basado en este pasaje del Evangelio de Juan: “Como el Padre me amó, así también los he amado yo: permanezcan en mi amor”.

El Obispo José Vázquez dijo que el amor se pone en acción a través del trabajo del CSA. “El amor se convierte en acción cuando la gente visita a los enfermos, cuando cuidamos a los pobres, cuando formamos a nuestros jóvenes en educación religiosa, cuando ayudamos a las parejas fortalezcan sus matrimonios. Ahí es cuando el amor se pone en acción y es cuando el ‘amor permanece,’” dijo el Obispo Vázquez.

El CSA provee de entrenamiento y formación continua para seminaristas, sacerdotes, diáconos, líderes laicos, voluntarios, de oportunidades de formación en la fe para jóvenes, programas para el fortalecimiento de las familias y apoyo para las escuelas Católicas, al igual que para ministerios pro-vida y de justicia social. El tema de este año es “El Amor Permanece” basado en este pasaje del Evangelio de Juan: “Como el Padre me amó, así también los he amado yo: permanezcan en mi amor”.

El Obispo José Vázquez dijo que el amor se pone en acción a través del trabajo del CSA. “El amor se convierte en acción cuando la gente visita a los enfermos, cuando cuidamos a los pobres, cuando formamos a nuestros jóvenes en educación religiosa, cuando ayudamos a las parejas fortalezcan sus matrimonios. Ahí es cuando el amor se pone en acción y es cuando el ‘amor permanece,’” dijo el Obispo Vázquez.

El CSA provee de entrenamiento y formación continua para seminaristas, sacerdotes, diáconos, líderes laicos, voluntarios, de oportunidades de formación en la fe para jóvenes, programas para el fortalecimiento de las familias y apoyo para las escuelas Católicas, al igual que para ministerios pro-vida y de justicia social. El tema de este año es “El Amor Permanece” basado en este pasaje del Evangelio de Juan: “Como el Padre me amó, así también los he amado yo: permanezcan en mi amor”.

El Obispo José Vázquez dijo que el amor se pone en acción a través del trabajo del CSA. “El amor se convierte en acción cuando la gente visita a los enfermos, cuando cuidamos a los pobres, cuando formamos a nuestros jóvenes en educación religiosa, cuando ayudamos a las parejas fortalezcan sus matrimonios. Ahí es cuando el amor se pone en acción y es cuando el ‘amor permanece,’” dijo el Obispo Vázquez.

El CSA provee de entrenamiento y formación continua para seminaristas, sacerdotes, diáconos, líderes laicos, voluntarios, de oportunidades de formación en la fe para jóvenes, programas para el fortalecimiento de las familias y apoyo para las escuelas Católicas, al igual que para ministerios pro-vida y de justicia social. El tema de este año es “El Amor Permanece” basado en este pasaje del Evangelio de Juan: “Como el Padre me amó, así también los he amado yo: permanezcan en mi amor”.

El Obispo José Vázquez dijo que el amor se pone en acción a través del trabajo del CSA. “El amor se convierte en acción cuando la gente visita a los enfermos, cuando cuidamos a los pobres, cuando formamos a nuestros jóvenes en educación religiosa, cuando ayudamos a las parejas fortalezcan sus matrimonios. Ahí es cuando el amor se pone en acción y es cuando el ‘amor permanece,’” dijo el Obispo Vázquez.

El CSA provee de entrenamiento y formación continua para seminaristas, sacerdotes, diáconos, líderes laicos, voluntarios, de oportunidades de formación en la fe para jóvenes, programas para el fortalecimiento de las familias y apoyo para las escuelas Católicas, al igual que para ministerios pro-vida y de justicia social. El tema de este año es “El Amor Permanece” basado en este pasaje del Evangelio de Juan: “Como el Padre me amó, así también los he amado yo: permanezcan en mi amor”.

El Obispo José Vázquez dijo que el amor se pone en acción a través del trabajo del CSA. “El amor se convierte en acción cuando la gente visita a los enfermos, cuando cuidamos a los pobres, cuando formamos a nuestros jóvenes en educación religiosa, cuando ayudamos a las parejas fortalezcan sus matrimonios. Ahí es cuando el amor se pone en acción y es cuando el ‘amor permanece,’” dijo el Obispo Vázquez.
St. Mary Parish in Mexia recently celebrated first Holy Communion. (Photo courtesy Juanita Cervantes)

Aleene Howser, a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Parish in San Marcos, was inducted into the San Marcos Women’s Hall of Fame for her many hours of volunteer work with the parish and various other organizations in the community. (Photo courtesy Cheryl Blake)

Knights of Peter Claver fourth Degree Assembly 40 and Chapter 40 worked with the Central Texas Food Bank Mobile Van at the Austin Veterans Outpatient Clinic. They helped distribute 15,000 pounds of food. (Photo courtesy Johnnie Dorsey)

The Little Flowers Girls Club of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Cedar Park volunteered with the Central Texas Mobile Food Bank to distribute food items for those in need. (Photo courtesy Angie Green)

Knights of Columbus Council 3444 of Temple relocated the playscape at St. Mary’s Catholic School in Temple. They installed a new border and put in a gravel bed beneath the structure. (Photos courtesy Rick Wyatt)

The Guadalupana Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Taylor made its annual pilgrimage to San Juan in South Texas. The group also welcomed Father Alberto Borruel as its newest member on Sept. 9. (Photos courtesy Elizabeth Chavana)

In honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, parishes and schools including Santa Rosa Parish in Andice (far left), Sacred Heart Catholic School in La Grange (second from left), and St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic School in Austin (above and right) held pet blessing ceremonies. (Photos courtesy Deanna Ramirez, LaDonna Voelkel and Michelle Fontana)

Send photos by the 10th of the month to catholic-spirit@austindiocese.org. Publication is not guaranteed.
Bishop Daniel Garcia celebrated the Diocesan Scouting Recognition Mass Sept. 29 at St. John Vianney Parish in Round Rock. (Photo courtesy Lloyd Motl)

The sixth grade science class at Regina Caeli Academy of Austin learned about the properties of a balance beam. (Photo courtesy Shannon Helmi)

Bishop Daniel Garcia blessed the newly restored and remodeled church at St. Austin Parish in Austin on Sept. 2. This was the first major remodeling and restoration of the exterior of the church building since 1953. (Photos courtesy Jennifer Anderson)

First graders at St. Austin Catholic School had their annual Guardian Angel Mass on Sept. 28. (Photo courtesy Kelley Berlin)

Bishop Joe Vásquez celebrated the sacrament of confirmation at St. John Neumann Parish in Austin. (Photo by Arlen Nydam)

St. John the Baptist Parish in Waco recently welcomed several new parishioners. (Photo courtesy David Haliburton)

First graders at St. John the Baptist Parish in Austin Catholic School had their annual Guardian Angel Mass on Sept. 28. (Photo courtesy Kelley Berlin)

Bishop Daniel Garcia celebrated the sacrament of confirmation at St. John Neumann Parish in Austin. (Photo courtesy Lloyd Motl)

The community of St. Francis on the Brazos Parish in Waco and the Franciscan Sisters Daughters of Mercy celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Sister Pauline Aguirre on Sept. 22. (Photo courtesy Orlando Salas)

Send photos by the 10th of the month to catholic-spirit@austindiocese.org. Publication is not guaranteed.