Learn more about the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal
- See pages 3 and 8
Let us pray: Televised Sunday Mass to air in Tucson

Catholic Extension grant to support Masses shown on KOLD Channel 13

Beginning this month, homebound Catholics in the Tucson metro area unable to attend Sunday Mass will still be able to see it via broadcasts on KOLD, Channel 13.

The programming is sponsored by Catholic Extension as a partnership with the Diocese of Tucson and Tucson’s local CBS affiliate.

The Sunday Masses for Catholics who are homebound, sick or otherwise unable to go to church will air at 6 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

“Catholic Extension has a long history of making it possible for Catholics in this country to gather and celebrate Mass,” said Catholic Extension’s president, Father Jack Wall. “In our early years, we sent priests out on railroad chapel cars to bring the Eucharist to remote areas of the US. They not only gathered area Catholics for Mass, but they also created new communities that allowed people to practice their faith, find new hope and grow in love and mercy. Thanks to these communities, people changed, and they changed the world around them.”

Catholic Extension will record and produce the half-hour televised Sunday Masses in collaboration with several other US mission dioceses. “It is wonderful to have this new opportunity to televise Sunday Mass to the homebound in our diocese,” said Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger. “This is an important ministry, and I am grateful that Catholic Extension has chosen to launch this new initiative here in Tucson.”

Catholic Extension is underwriting the cost of production and airtime for the Mass, which will be recorded in various US mission dioceses.

For more information, please visit catholicextension.org/TVMass.

Catholic Extension is an American papal society that serves US Catholic communities in poor regions. It supports the Diocese of Tucson, along with 89 other mission dioceses, by raising and distributing funds for church buildings, leadership development and ministries. Catholic Extension has provided financial support for the Tucson diocese since 1906, totaling more than $18 million.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIORS
2018 CHAMPION MANUFACTURED HOMES
DISCOUNTED THOUSANDS BELOW COST!

• Own your own home FOR LESS
• Age in place AFFORDABLY
• Winter in TUCSON

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Harris Mobile Home Sales 520-861-0409
tucsonteamdenton@gmail.com

Save the Date
Friday, May 11, 2018

With Your Help, We Work Wonders

37th Annual Cornerstone Gala

Honorees: Czarina & Humberto Lopez
Foundation goal is to make the annual giving ‘Appeal’ to all

By MICHAEL BROWN
Managing Editor

Sal Polizzotto didn’t hesitate when he was asked about the greatest challenge facing the Diocese of Tucson Annual Catholic Appeal.

“The Catholic Foundation needs to do a better job getting the word out. People need to have a better understanding of the impact of the Appeal,” said Polizzotto, executive director of the Catholic Foundation, charged with running the Appeal. “We are not focusing enough on what the funding has done.”

Polizzotto understood that Catholics can sometimes be confused by Foundation fund-raising requests, including the upcoming Cornerstone Gala, diocesan capital projects and planned giving efforts. When other elements, such as parish capital programs, second collections, the Catholic Tuition Support Organization and parish budget envelopes are included, it’s not easy to keep all the giving opportunities straight.

In late January, Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger sent a letter to Catholics in parishes throughout the Diocese. He announced the 2018 Appeal goal of $4 million, and the theme of the campaign as “Living Our Faith Through Acts of Charity.”

Polizzotto noted that from there, the Appeal follows a specific schedule, with “Announcement Weekend” on Jan. 27-28 or Feb. 3-4. That’s followed by “Commitment Weekend” (Feb. 17-18).

The Foundation’s Annual Giving Manager Suzanne Hopkins has been swamped putting together the promotional video used in parishes, along with manuals, envelopes, letters, posters and other materials that were sent to the parishes in January.

“She is very diligent in keeping up with it,” Polizzotto said.

It starts with a goal

Work on the 2018 ACA began last October, Hopkins said, when the diocesan Finance Office released the figures for the 2017 parish offertory – the basis for setting the proposed parish and diocesan goals.

She explained that the parish goal is determined by taking the five-year average of what parishes report from their first collections every Sunday. Then, that figure is run through a formula that determines what the parish goal will be. All the parish goals are compiled and totaled, and that will determine what figure Polizzotto will recommend as the annual goal to the bishop and the Council of Priests. In consultation, the bishop and council can accept the recommendation, reduce it or increase it.

Polizzotto said that after the math arrived at the $4 million diocesan goal in October, the priests and Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas approved it.

Polizzotto said that the increase in goal in 2018 marks the first increase since 2015, when it was bumped from $3.7 million to $3.85 million. The Appeal has made its goal each year, with totals increasing as well. Polizzotto cited the final total giving since 2015 have been $3.914 million, $3.928 million (2016) and $4.170 million (2017).

The Foundation staff sends materials directly to parishes, and offers training through the Foundation web site, cathfdn.org/annual-catholic-appeal/. Pastors and parish volunteers coordinating their local Appeal can log in and see daily updates on parish, deanery and diocesan totals. Figures are available for the numbers of donors, the parish pledge totals and the percentage of pledges and cash raised when applied to the total parish goal.

Polizzotto said that the amount received in pledges usually represents a fourth of a parish’s total, with the rest of the total coming from parishioners making one-time gifts. Catholics are encouraged to pledge their Appeal gifts to pay over the course of a year because those tend to be more generous.

Catholics are very diligent in fulfilling their pledges, he added, noting that, in any given year, no more than 3 percent of pledged gifts have to be written off.

Another goal is to increase active participants to the Appeal. Polizzotto noted that following a capital campaign that began in 2008, participation in the ACA dropped off as Catholics paid off their capital pledges. There have also been national trends showing that overall donor bases for diocesan annual campaigns have been shrinking during the last decade. That’s why Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas made a goal of increasing the number of donors by 10 percent in last year’s Appeal, Polizzotto said.

The 2017 Appeal did not increase donors by 10 percent, but at least showed a nominal increase in the number over the 2016 campaign, Polizzotto said. It represents a shift in momentum; Bishop Weisenburger is making the 10 percent increase in donors part of this year’s goal.

What the ACA pays for

Polizzotto said that the Appeal is just one of five major sources of revenue for diocesan ministry. Many ministries derive revenues from the interest from endowments, from tapping partially restricted non-endowment funds, from parish assessments and from program or management fees. Speaking only for the Catholic Foundation, Polizzotto said revenues for his office are drawn from the following sources:

- Helps pay for Foundation overhead, according to a chart produced by the Foundation as part of a PowerPoint presentation for vicarate information sessions. That is followed by grants to needy parishes and Native American missions, school education and evangelization, diocesan ministries, Catholic Community Services, additional parish support, youth and young adult ministries, detention ministry and the Jordan Ministry team.

The Cornerstone Gala, an annual spring banquet sponsored by the Foundation, is one example of how restricted funds can complement parishes and ministries funded by the Appeal. Proceeds from the Cornerstone Gala – scheduled this year for May 11 – helps pay for Foundation overhead, but mostly assists in funding parish and ministry grants in the Diocese. Earnings on investments also help subsidize the Foundation’s grant program.

The difference between the Foundation grant program, and the assistance provided via the Appeal is in how the funds are used. Appeal funding normally assists disadvantaged parishes that struggle to make ends meet on

► ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 8
In your area

**Bishop’s Calendar — February 2018**

- **3** 8 a.m., Parish Boards Convocation, Sts. Peter and Paul, Tucson
- **4** 11 a.m., Mass, Religious jubilees, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Tucson
- **4-5** Santa Cruz Vicariate regional meeting
- **5** 6 p.m., Dinner, Knights of Columbus Priests Appreciation, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Tucson
- **7-9** Gila/Pinal East Vicariate regional meeting
- **10** Diocesan Pastoral Council 11 a.m., Pima West Vicariate Mass and gathering, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Tucson 3 p.m., Catholic Foundation Mary Fras Donor Appreciation, Bishop’s Residence 11-12 Cochise Vicariate regional meeting
- **14** Ash Wednesday Noon, Mass, St. Augustine Cathedral, Tucson
- **17** 9:30 a.m., Mass, St. John Paul II Youth Awards, St. Augustine Cathedral, Tucson 4 p.m., Mass, Italian Catholic Federation, Our Lady of the Valley Church, Green Valley 18 10 a.m., Mass, Asian New Year, Our Lady of La Vang Church, Tucson 3 p.m., Rite of Election, St. Augustine Cathedral, Tucson 19 10:30 a.m., Council of Priests meeting 21 11:30 a.m., Downtown Developers luncheon 22 11:30 a.m., Catholic Foundation Board meeting 4 p.m., Catholic Cemeteries Board meeting 23-25 Regional V Encuentro, Phoenix 26 6:30 p.m., Religious Appreciation dinner, St. John Neumann, Yuma

**February 2018**

- **3** 1 p.m., Confirmation, Immaculate Conception Church, Yuma
- **4** 10 a.m., Confirmation, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Yuma 7 p.m., Rite of Election, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Yuma
- **5** 6 p.m., Confirmation, St. John Paul II Youth Awards, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Yuma

**March**

- **1** 6 p.m., Confirmation, Immaculate Conception Church, Yuma
- **2** 9 a.m., Confirmation, Immaculate Conception Church for students from the school, Yuma 7 p.m., Confirmation, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Yuma
- **3** 10 a.m., Confirmation, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, San Luis 4 p.m., Confirmation, St. John Neumann Church, Yuma

---

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

**Magnificat’s Valentine Breakfast**
49ers Club House, 12000 E. Tanque Verde Road, Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Tucson

Magnificat’s annual fundraiser includes a brunch buffet, prayer, praise and sharing. Guest speakers will be Matt and Kimberly Marchesseault. Ticket sales close Feb. 5. Tickets are $20 and available through parish reps, any Catholic bookstore or from Gloria Roberts, (520) 237-7060.

**Renewal team celebrates Valentine’s Day**
Sacred Heart Church, 601 E. Fort Lowell Road, Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m., Tucson

The diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal Committee will host an evening of praise, worship and adoration in honor of St. Valentine’s Day, with the theme “Alive in Christ.” For more information, call Gloria (520) 237-7060 or visit tucsoncr.org.

**Vatican astronomers offer public forum**
Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School, Gramer Hall, 1436 N. Campbell Ave., Feb. 23, 2-4:30 p.m., Tucson

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope, four Jesuit astronomers from the Vatican observatory will be speaking on the topic “Celebrate the Telescope: The Past and Future of an Evolving Instrument.” Speakers are Jesuit Fathers Paul Gabor, Richard Boyle, Jeana-Baptiste Kikwaya Eluo and Christopher Corbally. The event is free and open to the public.

**Perdreauville, Sasseen to be honored**
Viscount Suite Hotel, 4855 E. Broadway Blvd., March 4, 3-5 p.m., Tucson

The Jordan Ministry Team is presenting its annual Alive in the Savior Awards to Joe Perdreauville and Regina Sasseen at an afternoon event featuring appetizers, desserts, drinks and a silent auction. Reservations are $40 and deadline for reserving a seat is Feb. 23. For a reservation or more information, call (520) 623-2563. Proceeds of the event benefit Jordan Ministry Team.

**Sonoita Sisters ‘alternative Spring Break’**
14200 E. Fish Canyon Road, March 4-10, Santa Rita Abbey, Sonoita

The Trappistine Sisters at Santa Rita Abbey are offering an “alternative Spring Break” weeklong retreat for young women, ages 18-30. The theme is “Feed Your Spirit: An Alternative Spring Break for Young Women,” and will feature prayer, reflection and volunteer work in a modern monastic setting. For more information, call Sister Pam Fletcher at (520) 455-5595, email sracommyt@gmail.com or visit santaritaabbey.org.

---

**PIMA NORTH VICARIATE**

**St. Mark’s hosts Valentine dinner-dance**
2727 W. Tangerine Road, Feb. 10, 6:15-10 p.m., St. Mark Parish Hall, Oro Valley

The parish is sponsoring its Seventh Annual Valentine Dinner and Dance for engaged and married couples. Alcohol is not provided, but can be brought in. Child care available. Guest speakers are Catholic radio hosts Steve and Becky Greene. Tickets are $40 per couple, and proceeds benefit the parish Life Teen program. For information or tickets, call the parish office, (520) 469-7835, or email marriageministrystmarks@gmail.com.

**Santa Catalina offers ‘Music of Love’**
14380 N. Oracle Road, Feb. 18, 2 p.m., Tucson Parish Music Ministry

Coordinator Alex Navas with Rouzbeh Tebyanian and Andrew Desautels will perform a “Music of Love” concert featuring love songs drawn from the standards to the movies, with some surprises in between. Tickets are $25 each and support the parish’s technological enhancements to its worship space. They are available at the parish office or at the door. For more information, call the parish at (520) 825-9611 or visit SantaCatalinaParish.org.

---

**PIMA EAST VICARIATE**

**St. Pius X Knights hosts Lenten dinners**
1800 N. Camino Pio Decimo, Fridays during Lent beginning Feb. 16 through March 23, 4-7 p.m., Phoenix St. Pius X Knights hosts Lenten dinners featuring a two-piece fish dinner with potato ($9.50); a two-piece fish dinner with macaroni and cheese or pasta and marinara sauce ($8); a pasta and sauce dinner with garlic bread ($4), and a kids’ meal of macaroni and cheese and a roll ($3). Major credit cards accepted.
In your area

www.proximotravel.com
508-340-9370
855-842-8001
anthony@proximotravel.com
Call us 24/7

Prices starting at $2,499 ~ Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE with Airfare from anywhere in the USA

Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy; France, Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; England; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Colombia; Brazil; Argentina; Domestic Destinations; etc…

We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

www.proximotravel.com
Hablamos Español
855-842-8001
anthony@proximotravel.com
Call us 24/7

Prices starting at $2,499 ~ Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE with Airfare from anywhere in the USA

Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy; France, Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; England; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Colombia; Brazil; Argentina; Domestic Destinations; etc…

We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

The Diocese of Tucson, its parishes or ministries do not support or advocate on behalf of this tour company and are not liable for its actions. Consumers are encouraged to research all tour packages and cancellation details before making business decisions.

FEBRUARY 2018 - JMT EVENTS

2/3 Ministry to the Elderly/Homebound (CCS)
2/6 Level II: Scripture: NT Letters (JMT)
2/8 Parent Enrichment (SEAS)
2/9-2/11 CFP
2/11 Parent Enrichment (SEAS)
2/16 Level I: Prayer (St. Joseph)
2/24 Level I: TBD (Miami)
3/1 Parent Enrichment (SEAS)
3/4 “ALIVE IN THE SAVIOR” EVENT: Honoring Joe Perdreauville and Reggie Sasseen (Viscount, Tucson)

We offer:
- Level 1 (L1) and Level 2 (LII) certification classes for teachers and catechists
- Courses on theology and spirituality
- Adwent and Lenten Series
- Retreats and Days of Recollection
- Other programming to fit the needs of your faith community

Jordan Ministry
(520)623-2563

The Jordan Ministry Team
Forming Tomorrow's Church Today

2648 N Campbell Ave
Tucson, AZ 85719
(520) 321-4300
www.FriendsofRWC.Life

Help us continue our mission by utilizing the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit*.

Redirect your tax dollars to Reachout Women’s Center this tax season.

Helping women choose life for the unborn for 45 years!

Help us continue our mission by utilizing the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit*.

Redirect your tax dollars to Reachout Women’s Center this tax season.

*The Arizona Charitable Tax Credit is separate from private school tuition (CTSO) and public school activity credits.

Healing Hearts - Healing Pain Conference
Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms of Unresolved Grief Due to Fetal Loss and Resources to Help
Presented by: Rachel's Vineyard of Southern Arizona

March 16-17, 2018 | Santa Catalina Church
For event details including course descriptions and to register
Visit: RachelsVineyardTucson.org

Two days of educational and inspiring sessions with presentations by:

Theresa Burke, MA, PhD, DAPA, NCP, LPC
Kevin Burke, MSS, LSW

Joe’s Pancake House
Family Restaurant

Mon Chicken Taco Salad
Tues Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce & Garlic Bread
Wed Steak Burrito w/Rice, Beans & Salsa
Thurs Chicken & Beans Burrito w/Rice, Beans & Salsa
Fri Lasagna w/Garlic Bread

Join Joe’s Pancake House
Family Restaurant

2532 S. KOLB • 747-7536
Mon-Sat 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sun 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
33 years

The Pancake House serves Tucson
for 33 years.

FEBRUARY 2018 - JMT EVENTS

2/3 Ministry to the Elderly/Homebound (CCS)
2/6 Level II: Scripture: NT Letters (JMT)
2/8 Parent Enrichment (SEAS)
2/9-2/11 CFP
2/11 Parent Enrichment (SEAS)
2/16 Level I: Prayer (St. Joseph)
2/24 Level I: TBD (Miami)
3/1 Parent Enrichment (SEAS)
3/4 “ALIVE IN THE SAVIOR” EVENT: Honoring Joe Perdreauville and Reggie Sasseen (Viscount, Tucson)

We offer:
- Level 1 (L1) and Level 2 (LII) certification classes for teachers and catechists
- Courses on theology and spirituality
- Advent and Lenten Series
- Retreats and Days of Recollection
- Other programming to fit the needs of your faith community

Jordan Ministry
(520)623-2563

The Jordan Ministry Team
Forming Tomorrow's Church Today

2648 N Campbell Ave
Tucson, AZ 85719
(520) 321-4300
www.FriendsofRWC.Life

Help us continue our mission by utilizing the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit*.

Redirect your tax dollars to Reachout Women’s Center this tax season.

Helping women choose life for the unborn for 45 years!

Help us continue our mission by utilizing the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit*.

Redirect your tax dollars to Reachout Women’s Center this tax season.

*The Arizona Charitable Tax Credit is separate from private school tuition (CTSO) and public school activity credits.

Healing Hearts - Healing Pain Conference
Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms of Unresolved Grief Due to Fetal Loss and Resources to Help
Presented by: Rachel's Vineyard of Southern Arizona

March 16-17, 2018 | Santa Catalina Church
For event details including course descriptions and to register
Visit: RachelsVineyardTucson.org

Two days of educational and inspiring sessions with presentations by:

Theresa Burke, MA, PhD, DAPA, NCP, LPC
Kevin Burke, MSS, LSW

Joe’s Pancake House
Family Restaurant

Mon Chicken Taco Salad
Tues Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce & Garlic Bread
Wed Steak Burrito w/Rice, Beans & Salsa
Thurs Chicken & Beans Burrito w/Rice, Beans & Salsa
Fri Lasagna w/Garlic Bread

Join Joe’s Pancake House
Family Restaurant

2532 S. KOLB • 747-7536
Mon-Sat 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sun 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
33 years

The Pancake House serves Tucson
for 33 years.
Bishop Weisenburger new president of Rural Life Board of Directors

Courtesy of The Register
Diocese of Salina, Kansas

ST. PAUL — Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger was appointed president of the Catholic Rural Life Board of Directors in early November after Archbishop Paul Etienne of Anchorage, Alaska stepped down following four and a half years of service.

The appointment was made prior to the bishop’s appointment to the Diocese of Tucson.

“I am truly humbled by the CRL Board of Directors’ confidence in me to be the next president of CRL,” Bishop Weisenburger said. “I wonder at the continued graces shown me by our Lord. Over the past five-plus years serving the Diocese of Salina, I have grown in my love and appreciation for the men and women and their families working hard in rural America. I look forward to serving the Church through CRL’s ministry.”

Tom Murphy, who is part of the Salina Diocese’s Catholic Rural Life Commission, said Bishop Weisenburger was dedicated to understanding rural parish life during his time in the Salina Diocese.

“He took time to take part in local church bazaars, celebrated Masses for the Boy Scouts in our small parish and got to know us on a very personal level,” Murphy said. “You could find him eating at a fast food place on interstate while he was heading out to some function across our diocese. He did not hide out in Salina and we loved him for that.”

Bishop Kicanas named board chairman for NCEA

ARLINGTON, Va — The National Catholic Educational Association announced Dec. 28 that Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas was to be chairman of the NCEA Board of Directors effective Jan. 1.

He replaces Bishop George V. Murphy of Youngstown, Ohio.

“Bishop Kicanas has an extensive background in education having served as a religion teacher, counselor, principal and seminary rector, in addition to his extensive ministry as a bishop on the local and national levels,” said Angela Dinger, vice chairwoman of the NCEA board.

Thomas Burnford, NCEA president and chief executive officer said, “I’m greatly looking forward to working closely with Bishop Kicanas in his new role. The past 18 months have demonstrated a close and effective relationship between the association’s staff leadership and the board under Bishop Murry, and I’m sure this relationship and its benefit to the Catholic schools we serve will only grow and strengthen under Bishop Kicanas’ leadership.”

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas was installed as Bishop of Tucson on March 7, 2003, and became bishop emeritus last Nov. 29.

Bishop Kicanas currently serves on the US bishops’ Communications Committee, the Catholic Education Committee, the Subcommittee on Africa, the Subcommittee for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs.

He is a board member of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC), and formerly chairman of the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services (CRS). He continues his involvement with CRS as a member of their Foundation Board. He is vice-chancellor of the Catholic Extension Society, serving mission dioceses throughout the US.

The 2018 Black and Indian Mission Collection

Official Date is February 17-18, 2018
(First Sunday of Lent)
Please support our mission to the missions!

The students of San Xavier School in Tucson, Arizona continue to be thankful for all those who send cards, letters, and donations to the school and its students.
Padre Kino Ministry began out of need for local seminarian funding

By MICHAEL BROWN
Managing Editor

When John Halligan took over the diocesan Serra Club in 2010, he wanted to look at the finances for the group. His hope was to provide more support for local vocations, especially seminarians studying for the Diocese of Tucson.

What he found surprised him. “We were sending $94 out of our $100 dues per member to the national club, leaving us just six dollars locally,” Halligan said. “We weren’t getting anything back for what we sent them.”

That’s why in 2012, the diocesan Serra Club formally disbanded and reconstituted as the Padre Kino Vocations Ministry.

The name comes from the Jesuit Father Eusebio Kino who ministered throughout the area in the 17th century.

Halligan said the membership fee of the Kino ministry was cut in half, and now nearly all funding stays locally for seminarians’ needs and helping to promote other vocations to religious orders for men and women.

The group has requested affiliation with the Diocese that would allow it to file as a 501(c)3 non-profit. To do that independently requires an extended and arduous process, but by affiliating with the Diocese, it could obtain that status as early as next year, Halligan said.

The ministry funds emergency and unexpected expenses when requested by the diocesan director for recruitment for vocations for items not covered by the diocesan Vocations budget.

The group also provides nominal regular support. For example, each seminarian receives $50 on his birthday and for Christmas.

In 2017, tapping unspent funds from previous years, the ministry disbursed about $6,000, Halligan said.

The group also provides refreshments at several Vocations events, including the Kino Cup soccer tournament in May and the Vocations 5K run/walk on Jan. 6.

Halligan said there are about 30 current members, and the goal for 2018 is to double that. “Our members are getting older and older, with less and less energy,” Halligan said. “We need new ideas and new energy. We need fresh ideas and to do more fundraising.”

Last year, a group of members held a Casino Night in Green Valley that helped boost the Padre Kino coffers. This year, there are talks with the Knights of Columbus council at Santa Catalina Parish in Tucson to host a St. Patrick’s Day dinner as a fund-raiser.

Halligan noted that several area pastors have invited Padre Kino members to speak in their parishes, and that has led to an increase in donations. “When people find out what we do, they come forward and make donations.”

Editor’s note: To learn more about the Padre Kino Vocations Ministry, call the Vocations Office at (520) 838-2530.

Seton Award tradition continues, with a new home at Schools Endowment

Salpointe Catholic High School, Sister Charlotte Anne Swift named 2018 recipients

Following a successful inaugural event, the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund is holding its second annual dinner concert, with an added twist.

The annual dinner concert was scheduled for Feb. 3 at St. Augustine Catholic High School in Tucson.

The endowment fund has adopted a 30-year-old tradition founded at Salpointe Catholic High School: the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award. The award recognizes “an honoree who has demonstrated a history of dedicated service, support and leadership within the Diocese of Tucson Catholic Schools.”

In 2017, the Salpointe intended on discontinuing the award, with Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas as the last recipient.

However, leaders at the endowment fund thought it was such a good idea, they took over Seton Award and added it to their annual event, said Sheri Dahl, diocesan superintendent of schools. At the Feb. 3 dinner concert, the 31st annual St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award was to have been awarded to two recipients: Salpointe Catholic High School, and longtime educator and bishop’s secretary, Dominican Sister Charlotte Anne Swift.

The goal of the dinner is to raise money for a Catholic school endowment should the state empowerment scholarship account program ever be discontinued. The goal is to raise $2 million to serve as the fund principal. Sister Charlotte Anne was born in Oakland, Calif., and was educated by the Dominican Sisters from kindergarten through high school. After graduating from Bishop O’Dowd High School, she entered the Congregation of the Adrian Dominican Sisters. She also studied at Siena Heights College in Adrian, Mich., and at the University of San Francisco.

She was assigned in the Diocese of Tucson to Loretto Catholic School, Douglas, 1959-64. She then served in various ministries in California and in the Phoenix area, 1964-75, returning to serve as principal of Santa Cruz School, Tucson, 1975-86.

Sister Charlotte Anne next was coordinator of Project YES (Youth Enrichment Support), an afterschool program in South Tucson, 1986-87, and as executive director, 1987-2001. Since 2002, she has served as administrative assistant to Bishop Kicanas, a role she continues following his retirement.

Salpointe Catholic High School was founded in 1950 and nationally accredited in 1987. It is owned and operated by the Carmelites, and currently enrolls 1,160 students.
Property and Insurance Director John Shaheen lives life in motion

By MICHAEL BROWN
Managing Editor

John Shaheen, diocesan Property and Insurance Office director, will never be confused with the Maytag repair man.

Rather than glumly waiting around for someone to call him, Shaheen is a man in constant motion, assisting parishes and schools with building projects and ensuring that insurance claims which may surface are quickly resolved.

Like many of his counterparts in the diocesan pastoral center, Shaheen's office and position are funded from a variety of sources, including the Annual Catholic Appeal.

In early January, when many workers were pulling into their local coffee shops, Shaheen was on his way to Our Lady of Grace in Maricopa to inspect the damage done by a recent fire. He stopped to assess the work done on a parking lot at St. Anthony’s in Casa Grande. He swung by St. Helen’s in Eloy while he was in the area, but the pastor wasn’t available. He hopped off Route 10 at Marana's St. Christopher’s and talked with Father Jojo Tabo about future building and land needs in the area and about a new parking lot.

“A parking lot may seem like a simple thing, but it makes all the difference to the people in the community,” Shaheen said.

He returned to the office, and spoke with Liz Aguallo, Property and Insurance office administrator, who had been processing insurance claims. The office purchases property insurance on behalf of the parishes and schools to ensure the best rates, and reviews all submitted claims.

Shaheen also is a designated signer on the diocesan checking account when diocesan Chief Financial Officer Deacon Gregory Henderson is not available. After finishing with Aguallo, he moves into signing some checks – as Deacon Henderson is in a meeting offsite – to help pay diocesan bills.

Just as he finishes, a pastor stops by for an unscheduled visit. He wanted to talk to Shaheen about a possible building project, one he has not even discussed yet with his parish leadership team. Shaheen listened to the priest, spent some time getting more information and offered his initial thoughts. Much more work will go into gathering and sharing information, but almost all the seeds of parish and school building projects pass through Shaheen’s office.

“Being an architect has been a great help for me,” Shaheen said. In his 15 years in the office, he has reviewed and studied schematics for building projects ranging from major church construction and building renovation to “bathroom and confessional remodels.”

Next, Charles Stemple, diocesan Risk Manager, reviews an email he wants to send to parishes.

The Foundation has expanded ways for people to give, especially millennials who experience Church giving in ways that don’t reflect traditional models. Polizzotto said he has contracted with MobileCause, an application that allows donors to make a gift from the comfort of their smart phones. Donors can also help by adding the processing costs of an electronic donation in their gift, he added.

Parishes can use MobileCause as an option for their offertory and other gifts, a benefit extended by the Foundation as part of its licensing agreement, he said.

The Foundation also is offering parishes the option of opening their own affiliated accounts, known as portals, for Raiser’s Edge, Polizzotto said.

APPEAL

continued from page 3

their own. These include annual expenses such as programming and clergy salary support.

The Foundation grants help pay for parish and ministries’ extraordinary or building infrastructure or vehicle needs. For example, last year’s grants disbursed a record $571,000, including a $10,000 grant to Lourdes Catholic High School in Nogales for new parking lot lighting to increase safety and security. These Cornerstone grant applications are reviewed by a subcommittee of the Foundation board.

Cost of running the Appeal

Polizzotto said it costs $320,000-$400,000 to cover and run the Appeal, about 8-10 percent of the total goal in 2018. This includes the materials and some of the salaries of the staff, including Hopkins and Ken Hontz, the Development associate who tracks the gifts submitted by parishes each week. Because Hontz also tracks and maintains the Raiser’s Edge software used in other Foundation solicitations, part of his salary also comes from other sources.

Video shooting and editing, material printing costs and traveling comprise most of the Appeal costs, Polizzotto said.

What does the ACA do?

The Foundation expanded ways for people to give, especially millennials who experience Church giving in ways that don’t reflect traditional models. Polizzotto said he has contracted with MobileCause, an application that allows donors to make a gift from the comfort of their smart phones. Donors can also help by adding the processing costs of an electronic donation in their gift, he added.

Editor’s note: In subsequent issues, other offices that receive funding from the Annual Catholic Appeal will be highlighted.
More than 300 turned out for the Third Annual 5K Color Walk/Run for Vocations held Jan. 6 in Reid Park, Tucson, sponsored by the diocesan Vocations Office. The goal was to raise awareness for religious vocations, and the unseasonably warm weather provided an extra boost to participants.

Top photo, Father Jorge Farias-Saucedo, Vocations director for Recruitment and sporting a little color of his own, gives runners last minute instructions on the course. Above third-year theology student Justin Agbir and third-year philosophy student Alan Soto-Hopkins flash smiles and peace signs as they walk through the course.

(Top of page) The race begins, above, with puffs of powder flying in the air. Even puppy participants shared in the fun. At the immediate left, Winter Alexandria Jeff, 7, enjoyed spreading some joy - and orange powder - on participants before the race. The event closed with Mass and an awards ceremony for various categories of runners. At far left, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas and Father Farias award the top prizes for religious sisters. Winners, from left, are second place finisher Franciscan Sister Mary Ann Spanjers, first place winner Jacklein Ross, a Lasallian volunteer at San Miguel Catholic High School discerning for the Franciscans, and third place finisher Sister Ha Rok Na, a Sister of Charity of Seton Hill.
Simplify your Lent

What does God want of me?

First Sunday of Lent
(Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18 - 22; Mk 1:12-15)

Jesus experienced the first Lent. The spirit drove Jesus out into the desert and he remained in the desert for 40 days, tempted by Satan. His temptation took him right to the heart of the matter.

Jesus lived for 30 years in relative quiet and obscurity. He lived a very ordinary life as a carpenter. Now his time had come. It was time for Jesus to deal with who he really was. It was time for him to wrestle with his identity, with what he was really about, and with what his Father wanted of him.

Jesus was facing a critical time in his life. It was a time of passage from the life he knew to a dramatically different life. He would pass from a private person to a public person. He would become a leader of people, not the kind of leader Satan tempted him to be, not the kind of leader people wanted him to be, that is, a charismatic and powerful leader who would restore Israel to its glory days, but a leader who would take a very different road.

Can we imagine spending 40 days in this kind of soul-searching, questioning, coming to awareness, and taking action from that awareness? Can we imagine such a time when we face ourselves for who we really are, what we are really about, and what we will do about it?

We know where Jesus’ Lent brought him. Jesus came out of the desert proclaiming God’s good news, “This is the time of fulfillment. The Reign of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news.” Jesus came out of the desert knowing who he was and knowing what he must be about, and was totally committed to that, no matter where it would lead him. Jesus had a powerful Lenten experience and he is calling us to have the same.

These next 40 days are our “time of fulfillment.” If we are concerned about what we will give up this Lent, we are not dealing with the heart of the matter. Discipline yourself anyway you wish, but let’s remember that the purpose of discipline is to free us and focus us on the heart of the matter.

What is the heart of the matter? Who are you? Who am I? What are we really about? What will we really after in life? Do I want the next 10 years of my life to be a repetition of the last 10? Or do I want it to be different? Different how? What does God really want from me? Who is God calling me to become? And what will do about this?

These are tough questions to deal with. That’s why we keep putting them off. But they won’t go away. People who avoid them during their earlier years have them come crashing down hard later. People who put these questions on hold through most of their lives find themselves in that scary situation of having to deal with them at the end of life. Jesus is calling us to deal with these questions now, no matter what our age may be. If we do it now, we too will find that awareness and that ability to distinguish what really counts from the trivial of life.

Thank God for Lent. This is our time of fulfillment. Lent is a special time, a blessed time, and we need it to confront the heart of the matter. With God’s help we will be different people come Easter. With God’s help we will come out of our desert experience like Jesus did, totally committed to God’s call wherever it leads us.

You are part of something

Second Sunday of Lent
(Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10)

Today is the Feast of Transfiguration. The dictionary tells us that to transfigure is to change so as to glorify. Peter, James and John had a glimpse of Jesus who was more than he seemed to be. It was a glimpse of Jesus in his glory. His clothes became so white that they dazzled them. Peter barely knew what to say, they were all so terrified. What a moment this was for Peter, James and John.

Have you ever had a glimpse of yourself and discovered that you were more than you seemed to be? I don’t mean that you appeared in glory like you will in heaven. I mean a moment of insight and clarity when you realized you were more than you thought you were. Have you ever had a glimpse of your life when you realized that your life was part of something much bigger than yourself?

Perhaps the most difficult part of our lives is the repetition and routine that pervades everyday living. We are surrounded with sameness. There are one thousand little things we need to do over and over just to survive. When we load the dishwasher, we know we’ll do it again soon. When we dust the furniture, we know it won’t last long. When we shave we know those darn whiskers will be back tomorrow. There really is no closure on the one thousand little things that make up so much of our lives. No wonder we get into ruts, it’s just more of the same. No wonder we sometimes question what it’s all about and what it all adds up to.

You and I need some transfiguration experiences. We need to see ourselves as more than that. We need to see our lives as more than that. We have those moments. They are there. We need to recognize them. Here are a few examples from my life.
These homilies provide a roadmap and perhaps some insight into Lent. Take a look, ponder the messages presented in the homilies.

Jesus: ‘Please take me seriously. Take my life and death seriously.’
Third Sunday of Lent
(Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25)

When I read the Gospel in preparation for my homilies, I sometimes think that whoever chooses the Gospel reading has never been a priest and has never had to give a homily about it. That’s how I felt when I read today’s Gospel. An angry Jesus used a whip to drive the sellers and money changers out of the temple. He turned over their tables and spilled their coins all over the pavement. Obviously, this is a picture of an angry Jesus, but what does it have to do with us today?

After some reflection, part of this Gospel spoke to me. “Jesus knew them all and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.” This certainly speaks to you and me. Jesus knows us all very well. He knows our hearts and understands our human nature well. So, our question today is this. If Jesus came to our church, would he throw you out? Would he throw me out? Why would Jesus object to us being in our church? We are not selling animals or changing money. But as Jesus looks into our hearts, what does he see?

We are here in church to participate in Mass, to ritualize our faith in Jesus and our love for God and one another. That’s wonderful if Jesus sees that our hearts are in what we are doing. But Jesus cannot stand mere externalism in ritual or going through the motions without our hearts being in it. Why are we here? Are we here because we think we have to be here? Would we rather be somewhere else, and are here only because we are obliged to be here? Why are we here? Are we resigned to going through another boring ritual because the Church says we should be here?

Do you see what we are doing? “I am here to worship you, Lord, because I have to. I join this Mass of praise and thanksgiving because...”

ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

‘Rejoice. I have come not to condemn but to save.’
Fourth Sunday of Lent
(2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday. That comes from the Latin “to rejoice or be joyful.” We need Laetare Sunday when we look at all the sadness and suffering in our world today. There are wars and threats of wars, poverty and denial of human rights. We need to rejoice in something, and today Jesus and St. Paul give us good reason to rejoice.

When we watch football games, we’ve all seen that character in the end zone with orange, blue and purple hair, holding up a sign that reads simply, “John 3:16.” John 3:16 is probably the best-known line from the Bible and it is in our Gospel today. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life.”

That’s good news! And Jesus continues and makes it even better, “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” Today Jesus is saying, “Rejoice. I have come...”

ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

Homilies by Msgr. Robert D. Fuller
The Catholic Outlook thanks Msgr. Fuller, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini, for use of the homilies he wrote and published in a collection called “Homilies from the Heart.” Used with permission.

The collection can be purchased by calling the parish at (520) 326-7670, or emailing cabrini1962@aol.com.

The Transfiguration occurs

Christ chases merchants from the temple
Diocese embraces program that empowers Hispanics in Church ministries

By MICHAEL BROWN
Managing Editor

When the 80-member delegation heads to Phoenix Feb. 23-25 for the regional V Encuentro, they may be the least known trailblazers ever to emerge from the Diocese of Tucson.

Dominican Sister Gladys Echenique said Jan. 9 that she sees the upcoming meeting as the fruit of many of the Diocese’s Hispanic Ministry efforts.

Hired in 2012, Sister Gladys proposed and wrote a pastoral plan for Hispanic Ministry, which led to an expansion of faith formation among Hispanic leaders. Prior to 2015, when the plan was implemented, there were 178 Hispanic leaders at Level I certification – a catechist level – and none at Level II. Since then, the number of ministers certified at Level I has swelled to nearly 400, with another 110 now at Level II.

Every member of the delegation traveling to Phoenix is trained at Level I or higher, Sister Gladys said.

“Our people are hungry for formation,” she said. “They are hungry for training and when they are trained, they are helping at their parishes and helping their pastors. When they are helping at their parishes, they are engaged in evangelization.”

Sister Gladys and Hispanic Ministry directors from other dioceses in the region were asked to present reports to the Region XIII provincial meeting of bishops in Phoenix Dec. 19-20. The reports included diocesan developments in Hispanic ministry since 2012, and a summary of the V Encuentro findings to be presented at the regional meeting.

The current fifth Encuentro follows a series of national dialogues that began in 1972 when the US bishops recognized the need to reach out to the growing and vibrant Hispanic population in the Church. Encuentros in 1977, 1985 and 2000 brought the conversation forward as Hispanic Catholics grew in numbers and in leadership roles in the Church.

In the diocesan V Encuentro report, five central highlights and themes emerged:

- Parish Hispanic ministry is very important
- Ongoing formation among Hispanic leaders is essential
- Outreach to youths and young adults is an immediate priority

Almost 30 students of the Ministerial Formation Level II program received their certification for having completed 78 hours of study, at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger in St. Augustine Cathedral Dec. 9.

“Many students have shared how much they have grown in their knowledge and faith and have come to a deeper appreciation of their roles and responsibilities as leaders within the local Church,” said Dominican Sister Gladys Echenique, diocesan Hispanic Ministry coordinator.

She noted that the students came from parishes throughout the Diocese and worked with their pastors to developed pastoral projects to respond to the needs of their parish communities.

Almost 30 lay ministers earn Level II certifications

V Encuentro fast facts
- Twenty-eight of 78 parishes engaged in the process; 20 issued reports.
- Seven movements and organizations also issued reports, including Charismatic Renewal, Cursillo, Christian Family, Arco Iris and Farmworker Pastoral Ministry.
- Most of the 2,844 participants involved came from Mexico (90 percent) followed by the US (10 percent), El Salvador and Puerto Rico (3 percent each) and Honduras (2 percent).
- Most participants were women (70 percent) with 40 percent of all participants under the age of 29.
- The preferred language was Spanish (90 percent) followed by bilingual (70 percent), then English (50 percent).
- Four of five said they felt welcomed in their parish, with only five percent saying they felt unwelcomed.
- Nine of 10 respondents (88 percent) agreed with the statement on the V Encuentro process: “My voice/ideas were welcomed and respected.”

ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 13
FOURTH SUNDAY
continued from page 11

not to condemn but to save. Everyone who believes in me will have eternal life.” That’s you and I.

In our second reading, Paul tells us, “For by grace you have been saved. This is not from you; it is the gift of God. It is not from our works or merits, so that no one may boast. It is the gift of God.” Now, isn’t that something that should make us jump with joy? Ah, but as good as it sounds, it is difficult for us to accept it and believe it. It sort of goes against our grain because we are not used to accepting pure gift. We believe that we need to earn it or deserve it in some way. We feel uncomfortable when somebody gives us a very expensive Christmas present and we give only a token gift back. It is hard to accept a gift without reciprocating in some way, making things equal. If a complete stranger gave you a $100 bill, wouldn’t you be suspicious? How can you give me $100 when I have done nothing to earn it? And if the stranger said he gave it to you just because he wanted to, and because he thought you were a nice person, you would probably call a cop.

This is a true story. A man who inherited millions of dollars decided to give it all away. He was going to until some of his relatives convinced a judge that he was insane and had him locked up. People just don’t do such things. We bring this same attitude to our personal relationships. We hear expressions like, “He’s never done anything to be my friend.” Or, “After all I’ve done for her, I deserve better than that.” We bring this same attitude to God. We insist we are worthy or unworthy of God’s love. If we get to heaven, we have earned it. History has shown our tendency to slip back into a theology of righteousness. We believe that we can somehow affect God’s love for us by what we do. How dare Paul tell us we are saved only by the grace of God! How dare Paul tell us it is not from us or from our works. It is a gift of God. See how our good news can go against our grain?

My friends, this is Rejoice Sunday! Let us just let go of all that stuff. “But ... but ....” No more buts! Let us simply rejoice because God so loved us he gave us his only Son. Jesus came not to condemn, but to save us. Everyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life. Let us just admit that we could never do anything to merit such love from God, and we could never do anything to deserve an eternity of happiness with God. Let us just jump for joy for being loved so much and just live as people who are so loved. Oh, how our lives will change when we come to believe and accept this truth.

ENCUENTRO
continued from page 12

- More evangelization to families needed in general
- Increased outreach to Catholics in remote areas of the Diocese and for those who feel “unwelcome” in the church.

Teresita Kontos, a decade-long volunteer at Immaculate Conception Parish in Yuma, will be attending the regional V Encuentro and was excited by the reports from the Yuma-La Paz Vicariate, a region with a large Hispanic population.

“I have seen the positive response of the parish groups,” said Kontos. “I have seen them participate in the parochial and diocesan encounters where they have had the opportunity to share their experiences and reflections about the dreams and aspirations, and the many needs and challenges facing our community.”

One of her ministries is for the pastoral care of migrant workers. “This ministry provides opportunities for evangelization to migrant and immigrant farmers, and it also encourages them to share their gifts and talents with their communities and places of work,” she said.

It is this outreach to the “Iglesia en salida,” the Church on the margins, that she hopes will be one of the outcomes from V Encuentro, Kontos added.

As Hispanic leaders are called to move into greater positions of leadership in the American Church, there needs to be ongoing formation and training Kontos said. “We are protagonists of the New Evangelization and we have to be well prepared to bear witness to the faith and know how to explain the teachings of the Catholic Church to our brothers and sisters. This is a beautiful task that we must assume with love but also with a great sense of responsibility.”

Oscar and Diana Harper are a Tucson couple that assisted several area parishes through the V Encuentro process.

“We could appreciate that the V Encuentro is a very well-designed process to take grassroots information and present it in a condensed form,” Oscar said. “This process makes it possible to identify what the people consider to be important issues that need attention.”

The Harpers also said that the challenge ahead is for continued formation that provides Hispanic leaders with the skills and knowledge to be leaders in the Church.

Sister Gladys said that the best still lies ahead. “Encuentro is not merely a single event, but an entire process that has been happening in the Tucson diocese, and in dioceses across the nation, for the past two years and extends from the initiative of the US bishops to integrate the Hispanic community to the bigger Church,” she said.

“My personal experience in this process is to accompany the people, to help them to understand that each and every person has a call to be a missionary disciple, as Pope Francis is calling and reminding us,” Sister Gladys said. “God knows our particular gifts that correspond to his mission that no one else possesses. I pray that the regional and the national V Encuentros may be a time of grace and fulfillment for the whole Church.”

Representatives from dozens of parishes throughout the Diocese gathered Oct. 28, listened to speakers, prayed and presented the major points that went into the diocesan V Encuentro report. Many of those participants will travel to Phoenix later this month to join their voices with representatives from other dioceses in the area to help form the regional V Encuentro report.

Catholic Outlook photo by Michael Brown
Caution: Preaching divine threat dishonors God

Why don’t we preach hellfire anymore? That’s a question asked frequently today by many sincere, religious people who worry that too many churches and too many priests and ministers have gone soft on sin and are overly generous in speaking about God’s mercy. The underlying belief is that more people would come to church and more people would obey the commandments, particularly the sixth one, (“Thou shalt not kill”), if we preached the raw truth about mortal sin, God’s wrath and the danger of going to hell when we die.

The truth will set you free, these folks assert, and the truth is that there is real sin and that there are real and eternal consequences for sin. The gate to heaven is narrow and the road to hell is wide. Why aren’t we preaching more about the dangers of hellfire?

What’s valid in this kind of reasoning is that preaching about mortal sin and hellfire can be effective. Threats work. I grew up subjected to this kind of preaching and readily admit that it had a real effect on my behavior. However, that effect was ambivalent: On the positive side, it left me scared enough before God and life itself to never stray very far morally or religiously. On the negative side, it also left me religiously and emotionally crippled in some deep ways. Simply stated, it’s hard to be intimate friends with a God who frightens you. Also, it’s not good religiously or otherwise to be overly timid and afraid before life’s great energies.

So why not preach fear? Preaching fear is wrong, pure and simple. Brainwashing and physical intimidation are also effective, but like fear, those are not the proper fuel for love. You don’t enter a love relationship because you feel afraid or threatened. You enter a love relationship because you feel drawn there by love.

More important, preaching divine threat dishonors the God in whom we believe. The God whom Jesus incarnates and reveals is not a God who puts sincere, good-hearted people into hell against their will, on the basis of some human or moral lapse which we deem to be a mortal sin. For example, I still hear this threat being preached sometimes in our churches: If you miss going to church on Sunday it’s a mortal sin and should you die that day without confessing it, you will go to hell.

What kind of God would underwrite this kind of a belief? What kind of God would not give sincere people a second chance, a third one, and 77 times seven more chances if they remain sincere? What kind of God would say to a person in hell: “Sorry, but you knew the rules! You’re repentant now, but it’s too late. You had your chance!”

A healthy theology of God demands that we stop teaching that hell can be a nasty surprise waiting for an essentially good person. The God we believe in as Christians possesses infinite understanding, infinite compassion and infinite forgiveness. God’s love surpasses our own and if we, in our better moments, can see the goodness of a human heart despite its lapses and weaknesses, how much more will God do this. We’ve nothing to fear from God.

Doesn’t Scripture tell us that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Ps 111:10)? How does that square with not being afraid of God?

There are different kinds of fear; some are healthy and others not. When Scripture tells us that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, the kind of fear it is talking about is not contingent upon feeling threatened or feeling anxious about being punished. That’s the kind of fear we feel before tyrants and bullies. There is however a healthy fear that’s innate within the dynamics of love itself. This kind of fear is essentially proper reverence; that is, when we genuinely love someone, we will fear being selfish, boorish and disrespectful in that relationship. We will fear violating the sacred space within which intimacy occurs. Metaphorically, we will sense we’re standing on holy ground and that we’d best have our shoes off before that sacred fire.

Scripture also tells us that when God appears in our lives, generally the first words we will hear are “Don’t be afraid!”

Scripture also tells us that when God appears in our lives, generally the first words we will hear are “Don’t be afraid!” That’s important because God is not a judgmental tyrant but a loving, creative, joy-filled energy and person. We honor God not by living in fear lest we offend him, but in spending the wonderful energy that God gives us to help life flourish. God is not a law to be obeyed, but a joyous energy within which to generatively spend ourselves.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. He can be contacted through his web site ronrolheiser.com, and is now on Facebook facebook.com/ronrolheiser.

SECOND SUNDAY

continued from page 10

An active Catholic who had not darkened a church door for many years darkened our doors because he was attending the funeral of a friend. He was so moved by the whole thing that he told a parishioner he was seriously thinking of returning to church. Lord, your grace is really powerful. My life is part of something much bigger than myself.

Sometime between 2-3 a.m., the phone rings. A dying man wanted the last rites. Now, at 2-3 a.m., my initial response is not always my best me. Of course I said yes, but inside I said to myself, “Why couldn’t they have called me yesterday? Why do they wait to the last minute?” But I was okay by the time I got to the man’s house. I gave him the last rites. As I was walking out I heard him say to his son, “He is my savior.” I am his savior? No way, Lord, you are his savior. But it made me reflect on what an awesome thing it is to help prepare someone for death. What an unearned privilege it is for me to do that. It was a transfiguration moment and on the way home I thanked God for waking me sometime between 2-3 a.m.

A person comes to this church for the first time and after Mass says to me, “Thank you, Father; you were speaking right to me today.” Lord, what does this mean? You might say, “Sure, Father, those things happen to you because you are a priest, but they don’t happen to me.” Oh yes, they do. We all have transfiguration moments. Consider how the routine and sameness of life fades when a new parent holds a baby and looks into those eyes and counts those little fingers. Lord, this baby is part of me. Consider how an elderly person can look into the eyes of a spouse, without a word being spoken, and be overwhelmed by the love they have shared for so many years. Consider how someone can tell you how much you have done for them by a simple word or gesture and you wonder, “Who, me? I had no idea.”

Consider how in a rare moment of quiet you are filled with a peaceful sense of God’s presence and you just know it is all true. God is real, God does love you and you will live with God forever. Consider how you can reflect on your own life, everything that has happened and not happened, and suddenly you are aware of how Jesus has saved you from so much, and how Jesus has walked with you every step of the way. All you can say is “WOW!”

Sure, our lives are filled with 1,000 things we do over and over again just to survive. Every once in a while, however, we ascend the mountain of transfiguration. Every once in a while, we have a glimpse of ourselves as more than we seem to be. Along with Peter we say, “Master, how good it is for us to be here.” Treasure these moments.
A little prevention leads to much more in reducing risks

Creating protective community environments is necessary in achieving a stronger safety net in our homes, parishes, schools and communities. Staying safe is possible when we take a few extra steps for ourselves.

Safety specialists recommend prevention methods. I prefer to think of them as commonsense precautions.

Many crimes are crimes of opportunity. Criminals ranging from petty thieves to con artists to home invaders know that people often are creatures of habit, and criminals will exploit those habits to commit violent and non-violent crimes against you or your loved ones. For criminals, it is as easy as watching what others do. Remember all the holiday stories about porch thieves? All the thieves had to do was wait and watch for packages to be delivered. A delivery or postal truck slows down, the driver knocks on the door and makes off with the package. They may feel like fast friends, but posing as innocent strangers can use any type of environment or activity to foster a false sense of security. They may feel like fast friends, but they have time to stride up to the door and make off with the package. The solution was to have packages delivered to a location you’ll be at, such as work, or to a neighbor who is at home.

Following routines without change makes people predictable to a potential offender. Here are some suggestions to beat the criminals:

- Randomize routines
- Change daily schedules slightly if possible; leave for work or arrive home at different times;
- Lock doors behind you to retrieve mail or to take out the trash. Locking the door will prevent any opportunity for people to enter when you are not looking.
- When it comes to personal safety, there are steps we can all take, understanding that no tips can absolutely guarantee safety. Crimes can happen to anyone, anytime and anywhere.

Safety in environments

The following tips may reduce your risk for many different types of crimes:

- Know your resources. Who would you contact if you or a friend needed help? Where should you go in an emergency? Do those in the family know where they can all meet up in case of an emergency? Be sure to keep neighbors or other emergency phone numbers on your cell phone or in your car.
- Stay alert. Wherever you are, be aware of your surroundings. If you are going someplace unfamiliar or are concerned about encountering more obstacles or traffic, consider inviting a friend to join you and to help navigate a new route. Be conscious of the people around you and trust your instincts. If you’re alone, only use headphones in one ear to stay aware of your surroundings.
- Be mindful of social media sites. Many social media sites, like Facebook, use geolocation to publicly share your location. Consider disabling this function and reviewing other social media settings. Do not reveal your vacation plans or too much information about your home or schedule online.
- Individuals should earn your trust. Criminals posing as innocent strangers can use any type of environment or activity to foster a false sense of security. They may feel like fast friends, but allow some time to let new people earn your trust before relying on them.
- Have a backup plan. Spend some time thinking about backup plans for potentially sticky situations. If your phone dies, do you have a few numbers memorized to get help? Do you have emergency cash with you in case you can’t use a credit card? If you drive, is there a spare key hidden, gas in your car and a set of jumper cables, or better yet, reputable roadside service you can call. You also might consider calling a trusted person when you are stranded to let him or her know your situation and location. Call back when you are no longer stranded.
- Be secure. Lock your doors and windows behind you when you’re entering your vehicle or home.

Safety in social settings

Consider these tips for staying safe and looking out for your friends in social settings:

- Make a plan. If you’re going to a party, go with people you trust. Agree to watch out for each other and plan to leave together. If your plans change, make sure to touch base with the other person in your group. Don’t leave someone stranded in an unfamiliar or unsafe situation.
- Protect yourself. If at a party with people you do not know well, don’t leave your beverages unattended. If you go to the bathroom or step outside, take the drink with you or toss it out. Drink only from containers you have opened or drinks you watched being made and poured, otherwise it may not be possible to know if something has been added to someone’s drink. An individual can use a substance that has no color, taste or odor. Keep track of how many drinks you’ve had and be aware of your friends’ behavior.
- Trust your instincts. If you notice something that doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t.

Celaya-Aston is the director of the Office of Child, Adolescent and Adult Protection for the Diocese of Tucson.

THIRD SUNDAY
continued from page 11

I am obligated to praise you and thank you.” It’s like little Suzie who fought with her daddy before he left for work. Her mommy told her, “When Daddy comes home you go up to him and tell him you love him, and that’s an order.” Suzie goes to her daddy and says, “Daddy, I love you. Mommy made me say this.” Well, her daddy did not feel loved at all. God does not feel praised or thanked when people do it out of obligation.

We are here in church now to participate in Mass, but do we really believe God’s word that we hear? Do we honestly try to live God’s word every day? When we engage in religious ritual without really taking God’s word to heart and living it, then this ritual of holiness itself becomes a mask of unholiness.

In the season of Lent, God’s word is very clear: “Reform your lives and believe in the Gospel.” We are halfway through Lent. What is happening to us? Let me give you an example. When we apply for Social Security, we use our best earning quarters to count for our retirement. Spiritually, would we choose the last three weeks as the ones to count for our eternity? If not, why not? What was lacking? Have we not yet taken the Gospel seriously? Have we not yet gotten serious about reforming our lives and changing our hearts?

I think today’s Gospel was assigned to the Third Sunday of Lent for a reason. It’s like Jesus is saying to us, “Please take me seriously. Take my life and death seriously. Take my love seriously. Don’t play games with me. Games make me angry. This is your time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is near you. Reform your lives and change your hearts, and believe in the Gospel.”

Our time of fulfillment is half over. Let’s put our hearts into making the second half of Lent the best effort we can make because we know this is precious time, and because we take Jesus seriously.
Bishop continues traditional Christmas time jail visits to celebrate Mass

By MICHAEL BROWN
Managing Editor

Chaplain Steve Martinez’s congregation has a very strict dress code. They show up in orange every week. Martinez is the chaplain at Pima County Jail and coordinates religious services and programming for the nearly 2,000 incarcerated men and women at the various facilities comprising the Silverlake Road complex. On Dec. 24, he and Deacon Mike Gutierrez introduced Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger to inmates in three areas of the men’s facility: temporary holding, the Tower and juveniles.

The bishop celebrated Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas for the former two populations, and chatted and sang carols for about 30 minutes with the teens.

Martinez noted that the day before, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas had celebrated Mass for several women’s units at the facility as well.

Martinez said he became chaplain at Pima County in 2004 after reading the passage in Matthew’s Gospel about going after the lost sheep. He said he feels good about the work the chaplains do at Pima County, and how the guards and inmates work consistently together to establish relationships over time.

The guards seem to understand that while inmates are incarcerated for crimes they committed, they should still be treated with respect, Martinez said. “They treat the men with dignity here.”

Deacon Gutierrez started working in prison ministry for Catholic Community Services in 2011. He and the bishop were joined by the Divine Mercy Choir from St. John the Evangelist Parish, Tucson.

Bishop Weisenburger, who regularly visited prisons as the Bishop of Salina and while a priest in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, celebrated Mass in a small double room for seven inmates. He recited most of the prayers in Spanish, but preached in English. The men followed along with a bilingual worship aid provided by the Society of St. Paul in Los Angeles.

The homily of both Masses followed the theme of hope, set up by the readings of the day, including the Annunciation narrative from Luke’s Gospel.

“He also told of a young man, small in stature, but who took it upon himself to cajole other prisoners into attending Mass, which led to a significant increase in worshippers. “The man said, ‘If it wasn’t for coming to prison, I’d be dead by now,’” the bishop recalled. “Being in prison gave him a whole different view on life.”

Inmates in “the Tower,” a population serving out long sentences. Mass was celebrated in English, in a much larger double room, and the men were older and more relaxed. They sang carols and responded loudly to the prayers.

The last stop was in the common area for juvenile detention. Unlike the other rooms, the accommodations were squarely in front of the cells occupied by the young men. One teen was placed in an open-air cage, allowed to participate in the session but physically separated from the group. A total of 11 attended.

Bishop Weisenburger talked to them about the liturgical seasons, and was asked why people give gifts at Christmas. After a few carols, the bishop said he would pray for them during his Christmas day Mass.
El papa: Ayuden a los niños a vivir cuidando toda la creación

Por CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — Un estilo de vida ambientalmente ético no puede mostrar más importancia por los animales y los bosques que por la situación difícil de la gente, dijo el papa Francisco.

El estilo de vida “verde” tiene que ser consistente y completo, impulsado por un amor a Dios el creador y a toda su creación, dijo el papa en un discurso el 5 de enero ante la Asociación Italiana de Maestros Católicos, que realizó su congreso nacional en Roma a principios de enero.

Los maestros de escuela primaria tienen que ayudar a los niños desde temprana edad a entender y practicar un estilo de vida ambientalmente ético que no sea “esquizofrénico”, es decir, un tipo de preocupación desconectada que “cuide a los animales en extinción, pero ignore los problemas de los ancianos. O que defienda la selva amazónica y descuide los derechos de los trabajadores a un salario justo”, él dijo.

Este enfoque exige enseñar la importancia de la responsabilidad personal, no bombardear a los niños con lemas pegajosos u órdenes que otro tendrá que realizar. Enseñen a los niños a tener un apetito y gestos de vida cotidiana”, él dijo. El papa también le pidió a los maestros y las escuelas que ayuden a reconstruir una nueva alianza con las familias para que se apoyen y fortalezcan. La alianza o “pacto” que antes existía entre el mundo de la educación, los padres y el estado desafortunadamente no es tan fuerte como antes y es una situación que tiene que ser reparada, él dijo.

El reto es trabajar juntos para enseñar a los niños a estar abiertos, interesados en lo que los rodea, él dijo.

Los maestros y los padres no pueden verse unos a otros en lados opuestos ni señalarles los unos a otros, él dijo, sino que tienen que ponerse “en el lugar del otro, comprendiendo las dificultades objetivas que uno y otro encuentran hoy en la educación y creando así una mayor solidaridad: complicidad solidaria”.

El papa Francisco pidió a los maestros católicos que continúen siendo inspirados por valores cristianos, bien sea que enseñen en escuelas públicas o católicas privadas, y que pidan a sus estudiantes mantenerse abiertos a los demás en una “cultura del encuentro”.

El reto es trabajar juntos para enseñar a los niños a estar abiertos, interesados en lo que los rodea, él dijo.

Ellos necesitan ser “capaces de cuidar y de ternura”, libres del prejuicio difundido que afirma que la única forma de valer es “ser competitivos, agresivos, duros hacia los demás, en especial hacia los que son diferentes, extranjeros o los que de algún modo son vistos como obstáculo para la propia afirmación”, él dijo.

“Este, lamentablemente, es un ‘aire’ que nuestros chicos respiran a menudo”, él dijo. El remedio es darles “un aire distinto, más sano, más humano”, él dijo, y es porque es muy importante construir la nueva alianza con los padres.

Ayuden a los chicos a ver a los demás como hermanos y hermanas que deben ser respetados y vale la pena conocer, “con sus pasados, sus virtudes y defectos, recursos y límites”, él dijo.

Más allá de Tucson: V Encuentro Reunión Regional que tendrá lugar en Phoenix

Diócesis apoya programa de empoderamiento de hispanos en ministerios eclesiales

Por MICHAEL BROWN
Director Editorial

La delegación de 80 católicos que viajará a Phoenix al V Encuentro Regional del 23 al 25 de febrero quizá sea el grupo pionero menos conocido de la Diócesis de Tucson. La hermana dominica Gladys Echenique expresó el 9 de enero que este logro es fruto de la dedicación y el trabajo constante del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Tucson.

Contratada en el año 2012, la Hna. Gladys fue quien propuso y redactó el plan pastoral del Ministerio Hispano que facilitó la expansión de programas de formación de líderes. Antes de 2015, año en que se implementó el plan, en la diócesis había 178 líderes hispanos con certificación de Nivel I –nivel de catequista– y ninguno de Nivel II. Ahora hay casi 400 ministros hispanos certificados a Nivel I, y otros 110 a Nivel II.

“Nuestra gente está hambrienta de formación”, dijo. “Está hambrienta de capacitación, y una vez que la reciben ayudan a sus párrocos y colaboran más en las parroquias contribuyendo de esa manera al trabajo de evangelización”.

La Hna. Gladys y los directores de ministerios hispanos de otras diócesis de la región presentaron los informes solicitados para la asamblea provincial de obispos de la Región XIII, celebrada en Phoenix el 19 y 20 de diciembre. Los informes incluían detalles del progreso del ministerio hispano en nuestra diócesis a partir de 2012, y un resumen de las conclusiones del V Encuentro que será presentado en la reunión regional.

Este V Encuentro es parte de una serie de diálogos nacionales que comenzaron en 1972, cuando los obispos de EE.UU. reconocieron la necesidad de acercar e incluir en la Iglesia a la creciente y fervorosa población hispana. Los Encuentros de 1977, 1985 y 2000 fueron dando mayor relieve a la conversación a medida que aumentaba el número de hispanos católicos y su participación en puestos de liderazgo en la Iglesia.

En el informe del V Encuentro diocesano se destacaron cinco temas centrales:
-El ministerio parroquial hispano es muy importante.
-La formación continua de los líderes hispanos es esencial.
-Acercarnos a los jóvenes y adultos jóvenes para incluirlos es una prioridad inmediata.
-Se necesita de un mayor movimiento

> EL ARTÍCULO CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 18
Lo mejor es que estamos seguros que lo sentimos

Crear ambientes seguros en nuestro medio es necesario para contar con una red de protección que se extienda a los hogares, parroquias, escuelas y comunidades. Protegernos es posible si tomamos algunas medidas. Los especialistas en seguridad recomiendan métodos preventivos que yo considero precauciones de sentido común.

Muchos de los delitos que se cometen son delitos situacionales, o de oportunidad. Los delincuentes, ya sean ladrones de poca monta, estafadores o intrusos, saben que las personas somos animales de costumbres. Ellos explotan nuestros hábitos para cometer delitos, violentos o no, y usted no esté mirando. ¿Recuerda las noticias sobre ladrones de paquetes durante las fiestas de diciembre? Es muy fácil para los ladrones esperar y aprovechar esas oportunidades. Ven que un camión de reparto o del correo se detiene frente a una residencia, luego el conductor toca a la puerta y, si nadie atiende, deja el paquete en el porche. Ganancia fácil: sabiendo que no hay nadie en casa, el ladrón se lleva el paquete. Para evitar ese robo, la persona tendría que haber pedido que le entregaran el paquete donde iba a estar ese día, por ejemplo, en el trabajo, o que se lo dejaran a un vecino que iba a estar en casa.

Una persona que se a-pega mucho a una rutina les facilita las cosas a los delincuentes porque ellos pueden predecir lo que va a hacer. Estas son algunas sugerencias para ganarles a los criminales:

- No siga una rutina muy estricta.
- Si es posible, modifique sus horarios. Salga a trabajar o regrese a casa a horas diferentes.
- Cuando vaya a recoger el correo o a sacar la basura, eche el cerrojo a la puerta. De esa manera impedirá que alguien entre en su casa cuando usted no esté mirando.

En materia de protección personal todos podemos tomar ciertas medidas, si bien se sabe que no hay manera de garantizar totalmente la seguridad. El crimen puede afectar a cualquiera, en cualquier momento y en cualquier lugar.

Seguridad en distintos ambientes

Las siguientes sugerencias pueden reducir el riesgo de varios tipos de delitos:
- Tenga en cuenta sus recursos. ¿A quién contactaría si usted o un amigo necesitaran ayuda? Adónde se dirigiría si estuviera en apuros? ¿Toda su familia sabe dónde reunirse en caso de emergencia? Tenga en su vehículo y en su celular los números de teléfono de sus vecinos y otros números importantes.
- Manténgase alerta. Donde esté, preste atención a sus alrededores. Si se encuentra en un lugar que no conoce bien, o si no se siente confiado o tranquilo en cierto tipo de tráfico, considere invitar a un amigo para que lo acompañe, especialmente si va a seguir una ruta nueva. Esté atento entre la gente, y confíe en sus instintos. Si está solo y va a usar auriculares, use uno solo para poder escuchar lo que sucede a su alrededor.
- Tenga cuidado en los medios sociales. Muchos de ellos, como Facebook, usan geolocalización y comparten en público la ubicación de los usuarios. Considere desactivar esa función y revisar otras configuraciones de sus redes sociales. No revelle en línea sus planes de vacaciones ni demasiada información sobre sus horarios y su rutina.
- La gente debe ganarse la confianza de los demás. Hay delincuentes que se hacen pasar por gente de bien y pueden explotar cualquier ambiente o actividad para crear un falso sentido de seguridad. Aunque a usted le parece que ha hecho un amigo, déjelo pasar un tiempo antes de confiar en alguien que acaba de conocer.
- Tenga un plan de contingencia. Piense en maneras de resolver situaciones difíciles. Si su teléfono se rompe, ¿tiene algún número memorizado para llamar y pedir ayuda? ¿Tiende dinero en efectivo disponible en caso de no poder usar tarjetas de crédito? ¿Tiende una llave extra de su vehículo oculta en algún lado, suficiente gasolina en el tanque, pinzas para cargar la batería, o mejor aún, es miembro de un auto club? Si se queda varado en algún lugar, llame a alguien para comunicarle su situación y ubicación. Vuelva a llamar cuando se haya solucionado el problema.
- Protéjase. Cuando entre en su casa o vehículo cierre puertas y ventanas.

La seguridad en el ámbito social

Es posible relajarse y pasar un rato ameno sin descuidar la seguridad, que debe ser su prioridad. Considere las siguientes recomendaciones para protegerse y velar por sus amigos en el ámbito social:

- Elabore un plan. Si va a ir a una fiesta, vaya con gente de confianza. Póngase de acuerdo para estar pendientes del grupo y volver a casa juntos. Si cambia de plan, comuníquesele al resto del grupo. Nunca deje a alguien solo en una situación incierta o un sitio desconocido.
- Protéjase. Si está en una fiesta con gente que no conoce bien, no descuide su bebida, y si va al baño o sale afuera un momento, llévela o déjela al lado de alguien que acaba de conocer.
- Tenga en cuenta sus recursos. ¿A quién contactaría si usted o un amigo necesitaran ayuda? Adónde se dirigiría si estuviera en apuros? ¿Toda su familia sabe dónde reunirse en caso de emergencia? Tenga en su vehículo y en su celular los números de teléfono de sus vecinos y otros números importantes.
- Manténgase alerta. Donde esté, preste atención a sus alrededores. Si se encuentra en un lugar que no conoce bien, o si no se siente confiado o tranquilo en cierto tipo de tráfico, considere invitar a un amigo para que lo acompañe, especialmente si va a seguir una ruta nueva. Esté atento entre la gente, y confíe en sus instintos. Si está solo y va a usar auriculares, use uno solo para poder escuchar lo que sucede a su alrededor.
- Tenga cuidado en los medios sociales. Muchos de ellos, como Facebook, usan geolocalización y comparten en público la ubicación de los usuarios. Considere desactivar esa función y revisar otras configuraciones de sus redes sociales. No revelle en línea sus planes de vacaciones ni demasiada información sobre sus horarios y su rutina.
- La gente debe ganarse la confianza de los demás. Hay delincuentes que se hacen pasar por gente de bien y pueden explotar cualquier ambiente o actividad para crear un falso sentido de seguridad. Aunque a usted le parece que ha hecho un amigo, déjelo pasar un tiempo antes de confiar en alguien que acaba de conocer.
- Tenga un plan de contingencia. Piense en maneras de resolver situaciones difíciles. Si su teléfono se rompe, ¿tiene algún número memorizado para llamar y pedir ayuda? ¿Tiende dinero en efectivo disponible en caso de no poder usar tarjetas de crédito? ¿Tiende una llave extra de su vehículo oculta en algún lado, suficiente gasolina en el tanque, pinzas para cargar la batería, o mejor aún, es miembro de un auto club? Si se queda varado en algún lugar, llame a alguien para comunicarle su situación y ubicación. Vuelva a llamar cuando se haya solucionado el problema.
- Protéjase. Cuando entre en su casa o vehículo cierre puertas y ventanas.

La Dra. Rosemary Celaya-Alston es la Directora de la Oficina de Protección de los Niños, Adolescentes y Adultos de la Diócesis de Tucson.
Bishops ‘encouraged’ by consensus that DACA solution ‘urgently needed’

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The US Catholic bishops “are encouraged by the consensus” that emerged from a White House meeting that a legislative solution for DACA is “urgently needed,” said the chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Migration.

The bishops also “are pleased to see the mutual understanding that ensuring protection for these young people should be the first step in the systematic reform of our outdated immigration laws,” said Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, referring to those currently protected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

The committee chairman said the Catholic leaders are ready to work with Congress and the White House to find a solution, but he also cautioned against including “unrelated, unnecessary or controversial elements of immigration policy” in a fix for DACA.

Bishop Vasquez made the comments in a statement released late Jan. 10 by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

President Donald Trump and a bipartisan group of House and Senate members at the White House Jan. 9. The US Catholic bishops “are encouraged by the consensus” that emerged from the meeting that a legislative solution for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program is “urgently needed,” said the chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Migration.

“As a nation, we have a moral and humanitarian obligation to ‘Dreamers,’” Bishop Vasquez said. “These young people have steadfastly worked to improve themselves and our country and attempted in good faith to comply with the law as it stood. Their futures hang in the balance.”

In September, Trump announced that he would end DACA, which President Barack Obama created by executive order in 2012. At the same time, Trump called on Congress to come up with a legislative solution to keep the program in place.

“For years, these young people have been living in and enriching the US in many ways,” Bishop Vasquez said in his statement. “They are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes and communities. They and their families deserve certainty, compassion, generosity and justice.”

He said the US bishops “believe in measures that improve the security of our nation. Our teaching acknowledges and respects the right of sovereign nations to control their borders.”

“Such measures should be financially sound, effective and should not harm the vulnerable,” the bishop added.

“However, we caution against introducing unrelated, unnecessary or controversial elements of immigration policy - especially those that jeopardize the sanctity of families or unaccompanied children - into the bipartisan search for a just and humane solution for the ‘Dreamers,’” he said.

Bishop Vasquez said the bishops “stand ready to work” with Trump and Congress “in the coming days to help fashion a just solution that meets their needs, ensures our nation’s safety and security, and sets the stage for the larger debate on immigration reform that is so urgently and desperately needed.”

The day of the White House meeting, a US District Court judge in San Francisco temporarily blocked Trump’s decision to rescind DACA, saying the US government must start accepting renewal applications again from current beneficiaries of the program.

The ruling, certain to be appealed, also said the government does not have to accept applications from those not currently covered by DACA.

Meet Mussa Saad, a Sudanese war refugee now living in Tucson

On Sept. 27, Pope Francis began an international campaign called “Share the Journey,” aimed at accompanying refugees and migrants on their way to new lives and to build stronger and more inclusive communities. The Catholic Outlook interviewed three recent refugees receiving help from Catholic Community Services.

This is the story of Mussa Saad. CCS’ Fadi Iskandar served as a translator from Arabic to English.

Where were you born?

Eritrea (A country in the Horn of Africa, with its capital at Asmara. It is bordered by Sudan in the west, Ethiopia in the south, and Djibouti in the southeast)

How did you get here?

In 1978, I moved from there to Sudan. At that time there was a war between Eritrea and Ethiopia. I moved there with my father and his family. We lived in in northeast Sudan on the Red Sea. I worked in bakeries, but my dad was a farmer who died there.

How long were you in Sudan?

I lived in a camp from 1978 to 2016, for 28 years. I was married and started a family, but my wife died. In March of 2016, I came here. I got married again and we have eight children.

How old are you?

I am 50. We have six girls and two boys and they range in age from 18 to one year old.

Are you working now?

I worked for two months on the night shift, but developed health problems. Now I am trying to find another job during the daytime. I started studying English at Pima Community College, but after I got sick I had to stop.

How do you manage to support your family?

Aid agencies, like Catholic Community Services, have been very helpful. Churches have been helping too, especially my mosque. We rely very heavily on the people here for their help.

Where do you hope to be in five or ten years?

I am very happy for the education my children are getting here. The most important thing they learn is to respect their family.

What would you want readers of the Catholic Outlook to know about you?

I want to thank the people of the US because they accepted us. Most of the Arabic countries, they refused to take us. Thank you.

Editor’s note: After the interview, Iskandar learned that Saad had been hired to work in a laundry at a local hotel.
Arizona now allows contributions up to $2,177 for a couple filing jointly and $1,089 for an individual as long as it doesn’t exceed your tax liability. Contributions made in 2017 and up to April 15, 2018 may qualify for tax credits on your 2017 Arizona state return. STOs cannot award, restrict or reserve scholarships solely based on a donor’s recommendation. Taxpayers may not claim a tax credit if the taxpayer agrees to swap donations with another taxpayer to benefit either taxpayer’s own dependent.

For more information, contact any of the CTSO schools or call us at /uniF6AE520/uniF6AF 838/uniF6BA2558 or mail your check to PO Box 31, Tucson, Arizona 85702.

It’s easy to give them a gift that will change their lives and make sure they’re college ready. Make your gift to CTSO – up to $2,177* and $1,089* – by April 15th.

For more information, contact any of the CTSO schools or call us at (520) 838-2558 or mail your check to PO Box 31, Tucson, Arizona 85702.

*Arizona now allows contributions up to $2,177 for a couple filing jointly and $1,089 for an individual as long as it doesn’t exceed your tax liability. Contributions made in 2017 and up to April 15, 2018 may qualify for tax credits on your 2017 Arizona state return. STOs cannot award, restrict or reserve scholarships solely based on a donor’s recommendation. Taxpayers may not claim a tax credit if the taxpayer agrees to swap donations with another taxpayer to benefit either taxpayer’s own dependent.