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THE WEST TEXAS CATHOLIC

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Serving Catholics in the Texas Panhandle - Roman Catholic Diocese of Amarillo

November 23, 2025

Leading Off

The Diocesan Pastoral Center will be closed Monday, Dec. 8 for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Please see the Mass Schedules for parishes in the Diocese of Amarillo on page 4 in this section of *The West Texas Catholic*.

The Diocesan Pastoral Center will reopen for business at 9:00am Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Amarillo—Tickets are available until Wednesday, Dec. 10 for an Advent Women's Prayer Brunch, sponsored by Amarillo Rejoicers. The breakfast will be served Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10:00am to noon at the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, 2100 North Spring.

As in the past, the Prayer Brunch is a ticketed event. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and can be purchased online through the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center website, bdr.org, or at Top of Texas Catholic Superstore in the Signature at 2500 South Coulter.

Seating is limited. Doors for the breakfast will open at 9:00.

For more details about the Dec. 13 Advent Women's Prayer Brunch, please call the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center at 806-383-1811.

Amarillo—Volunteers continue to be needed at BSA Hospital as communion ministers.

The commitment as communion ministers does not require much time, according to Elma Fletcher, and training will be provided.

Those interested in volunteering for this ministry are asked to contact Fletcher at 806-206-4496 or via email, elma_fletcher@yahoo.com.

Eight New Permanent Deacons To Be Ordained



Deacon candidates were installed to the Ministry of Acolyte June 8 during a Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo. In the front row, left to right, are Gabriel Bermudez of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo; Todd Murray of San Jose Church, Hereford; Jesus Chacon of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo; and Rudy Munoz of St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa. Back row, left to right, are Jesus Martinez of San Jose Church, Hereford; Dwayne Rickwartz of St. Hyacinth Church, Amarillo; Kevin Rickwartz of St. Ann's Church, Canyon; and, Martin Ruiz of San Jose Church, Hereford. (WTC file photo)

Advent Mission Dec. 7-8 St. Mary's Cathedral

Amarillo—Sheri Friemel will be the featured speaker for an Advent Mission Sunday, Dec. 7 and Monday, Dec. 8 at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1200 South Washington.

The theme for the mission is *The Paradox of Hope*. The mission will be offered both evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 and the public is invited to attend. For those who wish to view the presentations at home,

the talks will be live streamed on the cathedral's website, stmarysamarillo.com.

Adopted to the Texas Panhandle, a small-town farm girl and mother of three sons, Friemel graduated from West Texas State University (now West Texas A&M University) with a Bachelor of Science in Education. She also has Certifications in Youth Ministry,

Theology, Healing and Recovery for Sexual Abuse Survivors, Discovering Spiritual Gifts and Equine Assisted Learning. After teaching and an extensive career in Youth Ministry and Pastoral Leadership and Management, Friemel is now the Program Manager for the Amarillo Area LOSS Team with the

Please see "Mission," p. 3

Amarillo—Bishop Patrick J. Zurek is scheduled to ordain eight men to the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Amarillo during a 10:00am Mass Saturday, Dec. 6 at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1200 South Washington.

"A deacon is a wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit to help our Church to spread the good news about Jesus Christ," said Deacon Brian Lewis, coordinator of the Diaconate for the Diocese of Amarillo. "Deacons are ordained clergy belonging to one of the three orders of the Sacrament of Holy Orders which are deacon (permanent and transitional), priest and bishop. They receive this sacrament when the bishop imposes hands on them at their ordination as they make a promise of obedience to their bishop. As the needs of the diocese dictate, the bishop assigns deacons where they are so needed."

The deacon has a threefold ministry of the Word, the Altar and of Charity:

- In the "Ministry of the Word," deacons engage in evangelism and the teaching mission of the Church. The ministry takes place both inside the parish walls and outside in the world;

- In the "Ministry of the Altar," the deacon assists the priest at Mass particularly by proclaiming the Gospel, leading the Intercessions, preparing the altar and ministering the chalice to the people at communion. Outside of Mass deacons can preside at Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Morning and Evening Prayer, Benediction and give special blessings on varied occasions; and,

- Deacons are most visible in

Please see "Deacons," p. 2

Deacons...from page 1

the parish as they assist the priest at Mass. However, their primary responsibility is the “**Ministry of Charity**.” The deacon cares for the poor and forgotten. He is a minister of peace and justice in the community. “Deacon” means “servant,” thus he is considered an “Icon of Christ,” who came not to be served but to serve.

“No matter what specific functions a deacon performs, they flow from his sacramental identity with Christ,” said Deacon Lewis. “Diaconal Ministry is more than just **WHAT** a deacon does but **WHO** a deacon is, that is important.

“Most deacons are married, have secular occupations and minister outside work hours. Deacons do not normally receive financial remuneration for their diaconal

services, unless they are employed full time in various diocesan and/or parish positions.”

Permanent Deacons give witness to the spirituality of a married person who works in the world, according to Deacon Lewis. Wives go through the entire formation program with their husbands and many become involved in lay ministry either in conjunction with their husbands or on their own and are a dynamic gift to their parish. Newly ordained deacons usually begin their ministry in the parish where they live. Because of their promise of obedience to the Bishop, they may be transferred, like any clergyman, to meet the needs of the diocese.

“Deacons have their origin in the New Testament and in par-



ticular the books of the Acts of the Apostles and Timothy,” said Deacon Lewis. “The diaconate was in existence for several hundred years, but in the Latin rite, gradually evolved into a transitional step toward the priesthood. During World Wars I and II, the concept of the diaconate was redeveloped and promulgated by the Second Vatican Council into the permanent diaconate as we now have, though its identity continues to grow and evolve.

“There are number of famous deacons throughout history, including Martyr St. Stephen, one of the original seven; St. Ephrem, St. Athanasius, St. Lawrence and St. Francis, just to name a few.”

This deacon formation class of 2025 began in Jan. 2021, requiring a significant time commitment of 64 hours or more per month during the nearly five-year process, according to Deacon Lewis.

“Each year is comprised of no less than 11 full weekends, one weekend per month,” he said. “These men, along with their dedicated wives, made it through a rigorous formation program, which includes considerable emphasis on academics, pastoral, human and spiritual development, plus prayer/study group meetings, parish internship and charity ministry.

These new deacons join 37 permanent deacons actively ministering in the Diocese of Amarillo, thus increasing to 52 deacons, serving 25 parishes. Twelve deacons are retired, 33 are deceased and a number have left the diocese and are ministering elsewhere. The diaconate has been serving the Diocese of Amarillo since October 1977, when the first class was ordained by Bishop Lawrence M. DeFalco. Additional classes were ordained in 1981, 1988, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2020.

The following are scheduled to be ordained Permanent Deacons:

- **Gabriel Bermudez** and his wife Antonia of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo;
- **Jesus Chacon** and his wife Estela of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo;
- **Jesus Martinez** and his wife Chriselda of San Jose Church, Hereford;
- **Todd Murray** and his wife Anna of San Jose Church, Hereford;
- **Rudy Munoz** and his wife Sylvia of St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa;
- **Dwayne Rickwartz** and his wife Lupe of St. Hyacinth Church, Amarillo;

• **Kevin Rickwartz** and his wife Cheryl of St. Ann’s Church, Canyon; and,

• **Martin Ruiz** and his wife Margarita of San Jose Church, Hereford.

Thumbnail sketches for seven of the 15 diaconate candidates can be found on pages 8 and 9 in this section of *The West Texas Catholic*. For those unable to attend the Ordination Mass, the Mass will be broadcast on the Guadalupe Radio Network, 1010AM and 94.5FM, KTNZ; and, on a low-power FM in Castro County near Nazareth at 105.5FM, KHFN-LP, beginning at 9:55. The Mass will also be livestreamed on the St. Mary’s Cathedral’s website.

A special Thank You to the parents who support Catholic Education in the Diocese of Amarillo and a special Thank You to the men and women who teach and provide support at our Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Amarillo. Your efforts and hard work are appreciated!

westtexascatholic.org

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Contact information for *The West Texas Catholic*:

Email address: westtexascatholic@gmail.com

Fax: 806-383-8452

Phone: 806-383-2243, ext. 1012 or 806-414-1075

Mailing address:

The West Texas Catholic
P.O. Box 5644
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Prayer for Priestly Vocations in the Diocese of Amarillo

Oh Jesus, eternal Shepherd
of souls!

Deign to look with eyes of
mercy on this portion of
your beloved flock.

Lord, we need a greater
number of priests.

Multiply vocations and
sanctify our priests
more and more.

We ask this through the
intercession of the
Immaculate Virgin
Mary of Guadalupe,
your sweet and holy
Mother.

Oh Jesus, give us priests,
according to your Heart!
Amen.



Tickets Remain For Youth Fundraiser

Amarillo—You still have time to make a \$10.00 investment that could lead you to a Dallas Cowboys game next month.

And you'll be supporting diocesan youth at the same time.

Time is running out to purchase tickets to benefit the 2026 Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) and the World Youth Day 2027 delegation representing the Diocese of Amarillo.

Tickets are \$10.00 each and the drawing is set for 6:00pm on Wednesday, Dec. 10, according to Diocesan Youth Director Oscar Guzman.

Top prize in the drawing are four tickets to the Los Angeles Chargers/Dallas Cowboys game Sunday, Dec. 21 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. Second prize is an Apple iPad Air and third prize is a 55" television. Fourth prize is an Apple Smart Watch, fifth prize is a One Cup Keurig Coffee Maker and sixth prize is an Echo Dot.

Tickets for the drawing can be purchased online at covenantteen.com/annual-raffle by using a credit card or Venmo. Tickets can also be purchased in the Diocesan Youth Office at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 4512 NE 24th Ave. during regular business hours.

"Those that are interested in attending World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul and would like to begin raising funds for the pilgrimage are asked to contact the Diocesan Youth Office," said Guzman. "You do need to pre-register for World Youth Day at amarillodiocese.org/registration-process. For those graduating in 2027, this would be a great senior trip. We encourage you to pre-register now and start fundraising. You can get more details at amarillodiocese.org/wyd-fundraiser."

For additional information about the drawing or to purchase tickets, please contact Guzman at 806-383-2243, ext. 118.

Mission... from page 1

City of Amarillo Public Health as well as an Equine Assisted Learning Coach at Dove Creek Equine Rescue. She specializes in Grief, Leadership and Crisis Response.

"I am honored to come along side others, as they heal, discern and discover a more purposed-filled soulful journey," she said.

The mission will include music, led by St. Mary's music and liturgy director Dr. Greg Onofrio. There will be refreshments at the conclusion of the mission each evening.

For more details on the Advent Mission at St. Mary's Cathedral, please call the cathedral office during regular business hours at 806-376-7204.

Annual Nazareth Thanksgiving Dinner, Crafts Bazaar

Nazareth—The Christian Mothers Society at Holy Family Church will serve its annual Thanksgiving Dinner today (Sunday) from 11:00am to 1:30pm at the Nazareth Community Hall at 104 First Street.

Adult tickets are \$15.00 each and children 10 and younger are \$10.00 each. The meal includes turkey and dressing with all the trimmings and homemade desserts. A raffle will also take place during the meal.

There will also be a Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar, sponsored by the Nazareth Art Club from 10:00am to 2:00pm in the CCD building, adjacent to Holy Family Church at 205 Second Street.

Pray The Rosary... daily as a family!!



St. Laurence Church, Amarillo, hosted its annual Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 8-9. Preparing desserts, left to right, are parishioners Alex Hernandez and Minnie Salinas. The parish noted its 70th anniversary Nov. 1 with a Mass and dinner. Please see the related story on page 9 in the front section of this issue of *The West Texas Catholic*. (WTC Photo)

Deadline Approaching For Diocesan Calendar

Amarillo—Thursday, Dec. 4 is the final day to submit dates for the 2026 Diocesan Calendar, covering the period of Thursday, Jan. 1 to Thursday, Dec. 31, 2026, which will be published in the Sunday, Dec. 21 issue of *The West Texas Catholic*.

All diocesan, parish and school organizations are asked to turn in dates for events taking place in calendar year 2026, which will be used for the annual Diocesan Calendar.

"I realize many diocesan and parish organizations have not thought about scheduling events in

the new year," said Chris Albracht, diocesan Director of Communications and Editor of *The West Texas Catholic*. "For those who have already set dates for 2026, I ask that you please share that information with us for the diocesan calendar."

Calendar information can be sent via email to westtexascatholic@gmail.com; via fax at 806-383-8452; via U.S. mail to P.O. Box 5644, Amarillo, 79117-5644; or in person to the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 4512 NE 24th Ave., Amarillo, during regular business hours.

Save Saturday, Aug. 22 on your calendars. The Diocese of Amarillo will celebrate its Centennial with a Mass of Thanksgiving that morning at 10:00 at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1200 South Washington. Look for additional information very soon in all available diocesan media and parish bulletins.



— SAINT —
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SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!

Amarillo—Parishes throughout the Diocese of Amarillo have announced Mass Schedules for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *a Holy Day of Obligation*, observed this year on Monday, Dec. 8.

Parishes have also announced schedules for events for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, observed on Friday, Dec. 12.

Listed below are the parishes that supplied the Office of Communications with their Mass and activity schedules. Some parishes are planning celebrations for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 13.

A number of parishes have also announced dates for Reconciliation and Penance Services. Those parishes that have announced Reconciliation or Penance Services dates are listed in **BOLD**.

Parishes not listed here either failed to report their schedules or are not planning celebrations. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Please consult your parish bulletin or website for additional details.

AMARILLO

St. Mary's Cathedral: Wednesday, Dec. 3, **Day of Reconciliation, 11:00am to 8:00pm**; Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 7:00am, 8:15am, Noon and 5:30pm; Monday, Dec. 12, Mass at 8:15am

Blessed Sacrament: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 5:30pm (English) and 7:00pm (Spanish); Thursday, Dec. 11, Serenata and Rosary at 6:00pm, Mass at 7:00; Friday, Dec. 12, Las Mañanitas at 6:00am, Matachines and Rosary at 7:00pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:30pm; Thursday, Dec. 11, Mass at 6:30pm (both Masses Bilingual)

Our Lady of Vietnam: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 8:30am and 7:30pm

St. Francis of Assisi: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:00pm

St. Hyacinth: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 7:00pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Las Mañanitas at 5:00am, followed by Mass (Spanish) and Breakfast

St. Joseph's: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 8:15am, 11:30am and 6:00pm (all Masses English); Thursday, Dec. 11, Masses at 6:00pm (English) and 8:00pm (Spanish); Friday, Dec. 12, Masses at 11:30am (English) and 6:00pm (Spanish)

St. Laurence: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 5:30pm (English) and 7:00pm (Spanish); Friday, Dec. 12, Las Mañanitas at 5:00am, Masses at 6:00am and 7:00pm (both in Spanish), with pan dulce and hot chocolate served after each Mass

St. Martin de Porres: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 12:15pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 12:15pm

St. Thomas the Apostle: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 7:00am, 12:15pm and 7:00pm

BOOKER

St. Peter's: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:30pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 5:00pm (both Masses Spanish)

BORGER

St. John the Evangelist: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:00pm (Bilingual); Friday, Dec. 12, Rosary at 5:00am, Las Mañanitas at 5:30; Marian Procession at 5:30pm, Mass at 6:30

BOVINA

St. Ann's: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 7:30pm (Bilingual, **at St. Teresa of Jesus Church, Friona**); Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 5:30pm (Bilingual)

CACTUS

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 8:00pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 8:00pm (both Masses Bilingual)

CANADIAN

Sacred Heart: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:00pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 6:00pm (both Masses Bilingual)

CANYON

Catholic Student Center: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 12:15pm

St. Ann's: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 12:15pm and 6:30pm

CHILDRESS

Holy Angels: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 5:15pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 5:15pm (both Masses Bilingual)

CLARENDON

St. Mary's: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:00pm

DALHART

St. Anthony of Padua: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 8:15am (English) and 7:30pm (Bilingual); Thursday, Dec. 11, Serenade for Our Lady of Guadalupe with Mariachi from 8:00pm to 11:00pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mañanitas at 6:00am, Procession at 5:00pm, Mass at 7:00 (Spanish), with celebration after Mass in the Parish Family Center

DIMMITT

Immaculate Conception: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 8:00am (English) and 7:00pm (Spanish); Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 8:00pm (Spanish)

DUMAS

Sts. Peter and Paul: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 11, Rosary at 7:00pm, followed by Mass (Spanish); Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 6:00pm (Spanish)

FRIONA

St. Teresa of Jesus: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 5:30pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 7:30pm (both Masses Bilingual)

GROOM

Immaculate Heart of Mary: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 7:30pm

GRUVER

Cristo Redentor: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 7:30pm (Bilingual); Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 5:00pm (Spanish)

HAPPY

Holy Name of Jesus: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 5:00pm (Bilingual)

HART

St. John Nepomucene: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 8:00am (English) and 7:00pm (Spanish; **at Immaculate Conception Church, Dimmitt**); Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 6:15pm (Spanish)

HEREFORD

St. Anthony's: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 8:15am

San Jose: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 7:00am (Bilingual); Friday, Dec. 12, Las Mañanitas at 6:00am, Masses at 5:30pm (Bilingual) and 7:30pm (Spanish)

KRESS

St. Paul the Apostle: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 12:15pm (English) and 6:30pm (Bilingual); Thursday, Dec. 11, Mass at 6:30pm (Bilingual; **all Masses at Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulia**)

MEMPHIS

Sacred Heart: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 7:00pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 7:00pm (both Masses Bilingual)

NAZARETH

Holy Family: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:30pm

PAMPA

St. Vincent de Paul: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 6:00pm (English) and 7:30pm (Spanish); Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 7:00pm (Spanish)

PANHANDLE

St. Theresa's: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 7:00pm

PERRYTON

Immaculate Conception: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 5:00pm (English) and 8:00pm (Spanish); Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 8:00pm (Spanish)

QUITAQUE

San Juan Diego: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 7:00pm (Bilingual)

SILVERTON

Our Lady of Loreto: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 5:30pm (Bilingual)

SHAMROCK

St. Patrick's: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:00pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 6:00pm (**at Our Mother of Mercy Church, Wellington**)

SPEARMAN

Sacred Heart of Jesus: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:00pm (Bilingual); Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 6:30pm (Bilingual)

STINNETT

St. Ann's: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:00pm (Bilingual); Friday, Dec. 12, Rosary at 5:00am, Las Mañanitas at 5:30; Marian Procession at 5:30pm, Mass at 6:30 (**all at St. John the Evangelist Church, Borger**)

STRATFORD

St. Joseph's: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:00pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 6:00pm (both Masses Bilingual)

SUNRAY

Christ the King: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:30pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 6:00pm (both Masses Bilingual)

TEXLINE

St. Mary's: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 5:30pm

TULIA

Church of the Holy Spirit: Monday, Dec. 8, Masses at 12:15pm (English) and 6:30pm (Bilingual); Thursday, Dec. 11, Mass at 6:30pm (Bilingual)

TURKEY

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 8:15pm (Bilingual)

UMBARGER

St. Mary's: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 7:00pm

VEGA

Immaculate Conception: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 5:30pm; Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 7:30am

WELLINGTON

Our Mother of Mercy: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 6:00pm (**at St. Patrick's Church, Shamrock**); Friday, Dec. 12, Mass at 6:00pm

WHEELER

St. Mary's: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 8:00pm (Bilingual); Saturday, Dec. 13, Mass at 2:00pm (Spanish)

WHITE DEER

Sacred Heart: Monday, Dec. 8, Mass at 5:30pm



El martes, 8 de diciembre, Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María, es Día Santo de Precepto. Debemos asistir a Misa.

Monday, Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Please be sure to attend Mass.

Tickets On Sale For Annual WTAMU Catholic Student Center Fundraiser

Amarillo—The annual fundraiser to benefit the Catholic Student Center at West Texas A&M University will take place Saturday, Feb. 7 from 6:00pm to 11:00pm in the parish hall at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 4100 South Coulter.

Tickets for the fundraiser will go on sale this weekend, at \$75 per person and can be purchased on the CSC website, wtsc.org. Tickets can also be purchased from any member of the Catholic Student Center. VIP tables seating eight will also be available, at \$1,000 each. The evening will include live and silent auctions and a meal.

At this time, the Student Center is seeking people who are willing to donate a gift basket for the silent auction.

“During our last three fundraisers, we’ve done gift baskets and have had great participation,” said Father Alvin Tshuma, chaplain and executive director at the Catholic Student Center. “The gift baskets have helped make our annual fundraiser even more special and we encourage individuals, groups, businesses, alumni and organizations to donate a gift basket.”

For those who would rather make a financial gift to the Catholic Student Center in lieu of donating a gift basket, cash donations will be greatly accepted and appreciated.

The evening serves as the prin-

cipal fundraiser for the CSC, according to Father Tshuma.

“This is the main source of funding for our campus ministries, but it’s also a great opportunity for people to meet the students that they’re supporting and for the students to show their appreciation for all the generosity we have received throughout the year,” he said.

Another highlight of the annual fundraiser is a raffle. Tickets are on sale at \$5.00 each or five tickets for \$20.00 and can be purchased from any member of the Catholic Student Center.

Top prize in the raffle is a \$1,500 VISA Gift Card. Second prize is a \$750 VISA Gift Card and third prize is a professionally-framed piece of diamond art created by CSC assistant director Betty Aragon of *The Last Supper*. Those purchasing tickets for the raffle need not be present to win.

Tickets for the raffle can be purchased during regular business hours at the WTCSC, located at 2610 4th Ave. The donations as well as the profit from the event help fund Catholic campus ministry at West Texas A&M University.

For additional information, to purchase a ticket for the fundraiser or the raffle, to donate a gift basket or to donate an item for the live and silent auctions, please call Betty Aragon at the Catholic Student Center, 806-655-4345.

Last Call For Golden Jubilees

Amarillo—Calling married couples celebrating 50th wedding anniversaries...

The West Texas Catholic is seeking couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries who were joined in marriage between Oct. 1, 1975 and Dec. 31, 1975.

“We would like to honor these couples in our next issue, dated Sunday, Dec. 21,” said WTC editor Chris Albracht. “Couples can send us a current photo or their wedding photo, along with their names and the date and location of their wedding. We will honor those couples, free of

charge in our final issue of the year.”

Photos can be sent via email to westtexascatholic@gmail.com or via regular mail to: P.O. Box 5644, Amarillo, 79117-5644. Couples mailing their photos are asked to include a self-addressed stamped envelope so the photos can be returned after the issue date. Couples are also asked to write, on a Post-It-Note, their name, address, phone number and email address. The deadline to submit photos and information is Thursday, Dec. 11 at noon. **Photos from cellphones will not be accepted for publication.**

You can find additional diocesan news, national and international news from Catholic News Service, the fiscal year 2025-26 Diocesan Calendar and much more on our diocesan website. Bookmark this address: amarillodiocese.org and visit often to keep up with the latest in the Diocese of Amarillo.

Jan. 31 Thematic Retreat At St. Laurence Church

Amarillo—The Diocesan Youth Office is offering a *Know, Love, Serve* Thematic Retreat Saturday, Jan. 31, beginning at 9:30am in the parish hall at St. Laurence Church, 2300 North Spring.

The retreat, which is for students in grades six through twelve, is being offered to all youth throughout the Diocese of Amarillo, according to Diocesan Youth Director Oscar Guzman.

Cost of the retreat is \$25 per person.

Learn more about the retreat by contacting Luis Ruiz at 806-338-0873 or via email, luiscarlos1872@gmail.com. Additional details can also be found at amarillodiocese.org/know-love-serve-retreat. The *Know, Love, Serve* Thematic Retreat is presented by Covenant Teen and supported by the United Catholic Appeal.

Please pray for rain!

DCCW Woman Of The Year 1994-2025

1994—Alice Kuehler
1995—Carolyn Rapstine
1996—Romilda Friemel
1997—Dolores Borman
1998—Lucille Britten
1999—Margaret Hammer
2000—Ormalene Artho
2001—Jerri Gerber
2002—May Hochstein
2003—Pat Wolf
2004—Elaine Borman
2005—Ventura Ramos
2006—Ida Morales
2007—Roberta Stanley
2008—Emily Sanchez
2009—Linda Doerfler
2010—Leona Schilling
2011—Teresa Sarzynski
2012—Gwen Johns
2013—Laurie Wegman
2014—Barbara Kline
2015—Julie Neusch
2016—Gloria Carlile
2017—Jeannie Friddell
2018—Donna Almond
2019—Monica Musick
2020—Cathy Ice
2021—Jeanie Burney
2022—No recipient
2023—Mary Frances Dorsey
2024—Brenda Obert
2025—Mary Lou Schmucker



Mary Lou Schmucker of Holy Family Church, Nazareth, center, expresses her surprise at being named the 2025 Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) Woman of the Year Oct. 17 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo. The announcement took place during the 89th annual DCCW Fall Convention. (WTC Photo)

Dumas Handmade Christmas Craft Show

Dumas—The fifth annual Handmade Christmas Craft Show at Sts. Peter and Paul Church is set for Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10:00am to 4:00pm in the Pastoral Center at 915 South Maddox.

“We will offer a large selection of vendors to shop with, a concession stand and door prizes through-

out the day,” said parishioner and event organizer Mary Swartz. “There is no admission fee and we encourage you to join us and take care of their last-minute Christmas shopping with us.”

For vendor information, please contact Swartz via email, kirston@kikileestudio.com.



Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

OUR MISSION

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) acts through its members to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. DCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

Women of Faith — You're Invited!

Join the DCCW and grow in Faith while building lasting friendships and serving with purpose.

All are welcome!

Come serve, connect and be blessed.

For more information please contact:

Emily Sanchez
(806) 676-0251

Jeannie Friddell
(806) 679-9144

Steward Saints

St. Nicholas
Died 350?
Bishop

Feast Day: Dec. 6
Optional Memorial

There is more legend than fact in the story of St. Nicholas, but we do know that he was Bishop of Myra in Turkey and was among those who signed the documents

affirming the divinity of Christ promulgated at the Council of Nicaea in 325.

He must also have been a generous man, for many of the legends about him focus on his charity.

The most famous of these says that he secretly provided the dowries for three poor girls by tossing a bag of gold coins through their

father’s window. From this story comes the custom of distributing sweets to children on the eve of his feast day and from the German translation of his name, Klaus, comes the English “Santa Claus.”

In addition to his modern identification with Christmas, he is the patron saint of Russia, Greece, Sicily and Lorraine, France.

Whatever the facts of his life, his generosity was such that he is still remembered and revered throughout the Church more than 16 centuries after his death. He must surely have been a good steward of the gifts that were his to share!

Steward Saints, from the book Steward Saints for Every Day, written by Sharon Hueckel ©1999

the National Catholic Stewardship Council.

Ordination
Anniversaries

Deacons of the Diocese of Amarillo observing their ordination anniversaries in December include:

Deacon Michael Anzaldua
Dec. 3, 2016

Deacon Robert Aranda
Dec. 3, 2016

Deacon José Castañeda
Dec. 3, 2016

Deacon Joe Hochstein
Dec. 3, 2016

Deacon Brian Lewis
Dec. 3, 2016

Deacon Richard Martinez
Dec. 3, 2016

Deacon Davin Winger
Dec. 3, 2016

Deacons
Birthdays

Deacons in the Diocese of Amarillo celebrating birthdays in December include:

Deacon Francisco Ibarra
Dec. 4

Deacon Mark White
Dec. 8

Deacon Ricky Delarosa
Dec. 20

Priests
Birthdays

Priests in the Diocese of Amarillo celebrating birthdays in December include:

Monsignor Rex Nicholl
Dec. 3

Father John Valdez
Dec. 4

Father Taylor Elzner
Dec. 18

Deacons
Birthdays

Deacons in the Diocese of Amarillo celebrating birthdays in November include:

Deacon Raymond Artho
Nov. 7

Deacon Jose Correa
Nov. 10

Deacon Felix Tudon
Nov. 20

Deacon Gerald Marnell
Nov. 28

United Catholics Appeal 2025-26

City	Parish	Quota	Pledged Amount By Parishioners	Amount Paid By Parishioners
Amarillo	St. Laurence	45,038	40,643	23,787
Amarillo	Our Lady of Vietnam	15,709	1,571	1,571
Amarillo	Blessed Sacrament	29,293	25,304	14,608
Amarillo	Our Lady of Guadalupe	34,673	26,653	14,542
Amarillo	St. Francis of Assisi	18,262	21,622	17,741
Amarillo	St. Hyacinth	38,659	42,935	30,519
Amarillo	St. Martin de Porres	15,360	5,529	4,329
Amarillo	St. Joseph's	53,696	62,620	31,400
Amarillo	St. Mary's Cathedral	144,926	127,398	83,235
Amarillo	St. Thomas the Apostle	192,772	236,127	165,918
Booker	St. Peter's	9,040	6,194	4,059
Borger	St. John the Evangelist	39,689	34,469	25,627
Bovina	St. Ann's	10,444	6,099	4,889
Cactus	Our Lady of Guadalupe	14,808	16,030	11,476
Canadian	Sacred Heart	13,012	7,997	7,067
Canyon	St. Ann's	109,588	107,196	73,647
Childress	Holy Angels	8,619	6,847	5,282
Clarendon	St. Mary's	2,275	2,453	2,073
Dalhart	St. Anthony of Padua	56,634	62,071	52,261
Dimmitt	Immaculate Conception	15,252	10,683	6,273
Dumas	Sts. Peter and Paul	59,645	39,842	25,809
Friona	St. Teresa of Jesus	12,152	7,507	5,367
Groom	Immaculate Heart of Mary	21,191	21,601	18,402
Gruver	Cristo Redentor	5,542	1,566	1,566
Happy	Holy Name of Jesus	1,533	2,140	1,180
Hart	St. John Nepomucene	7,563	5,793	3,867
Hereford	St. Anthony's	62,860	37,557	30,882
Hereford	San Jose	47,376	29,850	21,450
Kress	St. Paul the Apostle	2,466	2,475	1,062
Memphis	Sacred Heart	3,228	1,935	1,684
Nazareth	Holy Family	51,667	45,816	39,410
Pampa	St. Vincent de Paul	43,274	39,625	24,801
Panhandle	St. Theresa's	12,373	15,525	14,675
Perryton	Immaculate Conception	36,744	31,190	19,661
Quitaque	San Juan Diego	1,414	283	283
Shamrock	St. Patrick's	5,900	5,674	5,364
Silverton	Our Lady of Loreto	3,640	240	80
Spearman	Sacred Heart of Jesus	27,109	13,058	9,623
Stinnett	St. Ann's	4,395	3,507	1,627
Stratford	St. Joseph's	10,237	11,005	8,568
Sunray	Christ the King	3,778	5,310	3,330
Texline	St. Mary's	2,596	4,200	3,300
Tulia	Church of the Holy Spirit	15,476	16,615	10,904
Turkey	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	1,207	365	365
Umbarger	St. Mary's	15,794	13,781	11,641
Vega	Immaculate Conception	21,488	22,900	22,243
Wellington	Our Mother of Mercy	4,521	4,122	2,692
Wheeler	St. Mary's	5,736	2,152	1,882
White Deer	Sacred Heart	10,242	4,916	4,916
		1,368,896	1,240,991	876,938

Seminary Burse Report
Diocese of Amarillo

Contributions: thru October 28, 2025

Donations in Honor/Memory of

Benjamin Seago	\$	100.00
Ellen Neusch	\$	100.00
Richard Escalante	\$	100.00
Undesignated and Miscellaneous	\$	1,000.00
Total New Donations	\$	1,300.00
Open Burses		
Amarillo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women No. 2	\$	2,915.33
Andrés Pulgarin	\$	100.00
Anthony and Katherine Paschel	\$	1,700.00
Arnold Husmann	\$	2,900.00
Benjamin Seago	\$	800.00
Billie Jean Matthiesen	\$	50.00
Bishop John W. Yanta	\$	2,050.00
Bishop Leroy T. Matthiesen	\$	1,050.00
Bishop Patrick J. Zurek	\$	50.00
Buster Davis	\$	500.00
Catholic Daughters of the Americas Burse No. 2	\$	2,300.00
Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas	\$	1,724.10
Catholic Life Insurance	\$	500.00
Cecilia Neusch	\$	165.00
Charlie Hennessey	\$	110.00
Clementine Renner	\$	2,500.00
Deacon Mauricio Valadez	\$	575.00
Deacon Richard Riley	\$	225.00
Debby Pope	\$	250.00
Diocesan Committee of 2000	\$	2,558.50
Edward Venhaus	\$	50.00
Ellen Neusch	\$	4,225.00
Emily Diller/Jim and Emily Pavlicek	\$	4,000.00
Eric Walterscheid	\$	1,075.00
Father Francisco Perez, JCL	\$	1,500.00
Father Gary Sides No. 2	\$	985.00
Father Grant Spinhome	\$	1,100.00
Father J. Arnold Carlson	\$	100.00
Father Ken Keller	\$	1,200.00
Father Raphael Chen	\$	3,000.00
Father Richard Neyer	\$	3,010.00
Father Ryan Winger	\$	1,350.00
Father Scott L. Raef	\$	250.00
Father Shane D. Wieck	\$	1,750.00
Father Taylor Elzner	\$	480.00
Father Victor Hugo Andrade	\$	100.00
Francis and Hilda Neusch	\$	500.00
Gerald Brandt	\$	1,250.00
Gregorio Lopez	\$	900.00
Grove Family	\$	500.00
Guy D. Raef	\$	700.00
Harry Garrison	\$	100.00
John Casasanta	\$	1,150.00
Johnnatan Ibarra	\$	260.00
Jose and Epifana Vega	\$	400.00
Joseph P. Sullivan	\$	5,000.00
Josephine Lange Burse No. 2	\$	233.56
Knights of Columbus	\$	5,032.00
Martha Huseman	\$	809.00
Marvin Batenhorst	\$	500.00
Michelle M. Quinto	\$	50.00
Monsignor Fred Hyland	\$	1,500.00
Monsignor Harold Waldow	\$	10.00
Monsignor Joseph Tash	\$	4,733.00
Monsignor Kevin Hand	\$	2,250.00
Monsignor Mario Stortz	\$	100.00
Monsignor Monroe J. Matthiesen	\$	300.00
Monsignor Norbert Kuehler	\$	50.00
Monsignor Pete DiBenedetto	\$	1,667.65
Monsignor Peter Morsch	\$	4,373.18
Monsignor Raymond Crosier	\$	450.00
Monsignor Richard Vaughn	\$	180.00
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Betzen	\$	1,000.00
Owen Seamans	\$	4,020.00
Richard Escalante	\$	400.00
Ruth Bednorz	\$	50.00
Sammy Gonzales Sr.	\$	1,405.00
Serra Club of Amarillo Burse No. 5	\$	3,010.00
Sidney Birkenfeld	\$	100.00
Sisters of the Sacred Heart Amarillo	\$	100.00
St. Anthony's Church - Hereford	\$	4,500.00
St. John the Evangelist Church - Borger	\$	3,128.70
St. Thomas the Apostle Church - Amarillo Men's Club	\$	2,229.40
Steve and Rosalie Chontos	\$	100.00
Susie Dolle	\$	425.00
Ted and Marie Keller	\$	300.00
Tony and Dorothy Broman	\$	50.00
Tonya Taylor	\$	25.00
Undesignated and Miscellaneous	\$	4,571.94

Total Open Burses	\$	105,611.36
Closed Burses	\$	976,778.90
Total Original Burses	\$	1,082,390.26

Market Value of Investments as of September 30, 2025		
Bank of America	\$	1,105,063.41



Catholic Student Center at
West Texas A&M University
2610 4th Avenue
Canyon, 79015
806-655-4345
wtcsc.com
Father Alvin Tshuma,
Chaplain/Executive Director
Betty Aragon,
Assistant Director

Mass and Activity Schedule:
Sundays:
5:30pm, Mass
Mondays:
8:00pm-11:00pm, Adoration
Wednesdays:
4:30pm, Confession
5:30pm, Catholic U
6:30pm, Mass
7:00pm, Free Home-cooked Meal

Nightly Prayer at 10:00
Singers Needed

Amarillo—Singers of all back-
grounds from all parishes in the
Diocese of Amarillo are invited to
help lead the assembly in song at
three diocesan celebrations at St.
Mary's Cathedral in the next sev-
eral months, according to Dr. Greg
Onofrio, Director of Music and
Liturgy at St. Mary's Cathedral.

This includes:
• The Ordination Mass for eight
new Permanent Deacons on Satur-
day, Dec. 6;
• Rite of Election on Sunday,
Feb. 22; and,
• The annual Chrism Mass on
Tuesday, March 31.

To learn more about participa-
tion in the diocesan choir, please
contact Dr. Onofrio at 806-376-
7204, ext. 3003.

Podcasts? Yes, we
have them. Check
out stcapn.com



Betty Aragon, left, Assistant Director at the Catholic Student Center at West Texas A&M University, Canyon, goes over the readings with Father Alvin Tshuma, Chaplain/Executive Director at the CSC Oct. 26 prior to the closing Mass for the Buff Awakening #30 Retreat. (WTC Photo)

Youth Mini Rally In Nazareth

Nazareth—The third in a series
of Youth Mini-Rallies takes place
Saturday, Jan. 24 with a gathering for
youth in the South Deanery at Holy
Family Church, 210 St. Joseph St.
The event begins at 1:30pm,
according to Diocesan Youth Di-
rector Oscar Guzman. There is no
admission fee for the rally.
“As we did at the gatherings
in Dumas and Groom earlier this
fall, this mini-rally will focus on
the truth about the truth,” he said.
“This will include discussions on
objective truth vs. subjective truth.

We hope youths in the South Dean-
ery of the diocese will join us in
Nazareth and be enlightened by the
truth.”
Those youths planning to attend
must register with their parish
group, according to Guzman. For
more information, please contact
Guzman at 806-383-2243, ext. 118
or via email, oguzman@dioama.
org. Additional information
can also be found online at
amarillodiocese.org/deanery-mini-
retreats or by contacting your
parish priest or youth leader.

Prayer Intentions of
Pope Leo XIV
2025

Please join the millions worldwide who pray each day for the monthly prayer intentions of Pope Leo XIV. Since 1844 the members of the Apostleship of Prayer have offered themselves to God for the salvation of souls, the Church, the intentions of all Apostles of Prayer and the intentions of the Pope. The Holy Father gives us two prayer intentions each month—one, a general intention and the other an intention for world missions.

December:
• For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

Editor's Note: The following is a profile of the eight men who are scheduled to be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate by Bishop Patrick J. Zurek during a 10:00am Mass Saturday, Dec. 6 at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1200 South Washington, Amarillo.



Name: Gabriel Bermudez

Parish: Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo

Occupation: Self-Employed

Wife: Antonia Bermudez

Children: Denise Altamirano, Bernise Gilbert, Gabriel Bermudez Jr. and Joel Bermudez

Why do you feel you were called to the Permanent Diaconate?

"At the beginning of Diaconate Formation, I wasn't sure why I was there; even halfway I was kind of highly questioning myself. During Father Ryan Winger's Deacon Formation I was talking to my wife about this. During our conversion I looked up at the projector and saw *John:15-16*: 'It was not you who choose me, but I who choose you to go and bear fruit that will remain.' Then I knew I was in the right place.

"I believe my call to the Permanent Diaconate comes from God's gentle yet persistent invitation to serve His Church in a deeper way. Over the years, through prayer, reflection and humble service, I have felt His presence guiding me. The diaconate is not simply a role, it is a calling to live my Faith through action, prayer and the ministry of the Word. I feel drawn to be a servant leader who brings Christ's love to those in need, to strengthen the bonds of community and to inspire others to grow closer to God."

You've been very active with the annual Las Fiestas de Amarillo at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. How will this experience assist you in your diaconate ministry?

"My involvement with Las Fi-

estas de Amarillo at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church has been a living example of this mission. It has given me the joy of uniting people in Faith and tradition, the patience to work with diverse groups and the skill to lead with humility and purpose. These experiences have deepened my understanding of ministry as both service and relationship. It has prepared me to walk alongside people in their joys and struggles, offering Christ's compassion. I seek to live my diaconate as a ministry of love, humility and joyful service to God and His people."



Name: Jesus Chacon

Parish: Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo

Occupation: Truck Driver

Wife: Estela Chacon

Children: David Chacon, Omar Chacon and Saul Chacon

What led you to consider becoming a Permanent Deacon?

"First of all, I have to thank God for this call to set His sights on me. Several things motivated me to consider the diaconate as an option for my life, including fulfilling God's calling for me, satisfying a desire that developed within me as my knowledge of God grew and also a desire to build His Kingdom through my service to the community. Regardless of who the call came from, whether through a deacon or a priest, it is Our Lord Jesus who as He called His first disciples almost 2,000 years ago, continues to do so today, calling new disciples to continue His work and this

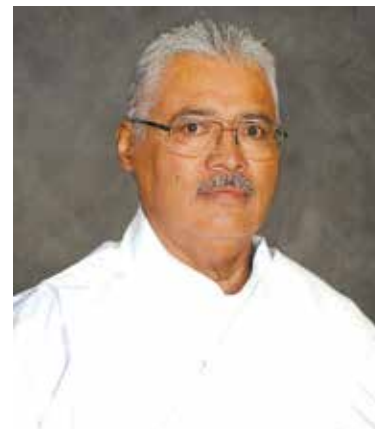
time He chose me.

"I must admit that at first I didn't believe it, that the Lord had set His sights on me, because on many occasions I failed Him. I broke His Commandments and principles and my love for Him also failed. My first call came approximately nine years ago through the late Deacon Andy Gonzales, to which I replied that I would think about it and pray to discern the call. A few years later, he asked me if I had thought about it and I replied that I was still thinking about it and praying. Finally, the call came through Father José Gómez, who told me that I was a good candidate for deacon and finally I surrendered to the Lord and accepted His call, and although at first I had many unanswered questions, it was thanks to both of them my mentor and my spiritual director that I began to understand that God looks at what is in our hearts, unlike us who only see our exterior and I understood that I was worthy of Him having set His eyes on me and here I am fulfilling the call that the Lord has for me."

For your charitable ministry experience during formation, you volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House. How has this changed you?

"It all began in the Ronald McDonald House/Family Room at Northwest Texas Hospital and also in the RMH where I did house-keeping. After a few occasions, I began volunteering in the family room at NWTX. There I had the opportunity to talk and serve people who had hospitalized children. It has been an experience that has truly touched my heart, seeing and listening to the children's parents and family members as they grapple with their pain and sorrow for their loved ones. How in those moments they have the need to talk to someone, the need to be heard, or simply to be alone, laying down on the couch, away from all the hustle and bustle. Many times they asked me to pray for them, other times for their children. On many occasions,

they would come to me and begin to talk, unburdening themselves. Many times I didn't have to say a word and would just listen. Other times, their stories were so sad that I felt their pain as if it were my own. On other occasions seeing the little ones so fragile and defenseless, it was very difficult for me to accept their suffering, and then I could understand their parents witnessing the suffering and pain of others."



Name: Jesus Martinez

Parish: San Jose Church, Hereford

Wife: Chriselda Martinez

Children: Jesus Martinez Jr., Estevan Martinez, Raul Martinez and Christopher Martinez

What is the role for your wife as the wife of a permanent deacon?

"The role of my wife is very important for me and in the life of the Church, in the support of the ministry as a husband and a deacon. She plays a very important role in the spiritual and pastoral life of the deacon. While the deacon is the one who is ordained and carries out certain liturgical and pastoral duties, his wife also participates in various aspects of the ministry.

"The wife's participation can promote the effectiveness of the deacon's ministry and promote a strong sense of community in the Church. She is also called to provide for him, encouraging spiritual growth and participating in spiritual activities together."

What advice would you give to someone who is considering the permanent diaconate?

"I would encourage him to work on having a strong personal relationship with God through prayer, the sacraments and scripture, as a

strong spiritual foundation is necessary for effective ministry. Also understand the importance of this unique role of a deacon in the Church. The diaconate is a ministry of service, and deacons are called to serve the Church and the community, especially the marginalized and those in need.

"It is also very important to have the support and understanding of their spouse and family. The diaconate requires a commitment that affects the whole family; therefore, open communication and support are key.

"It's important to pray and reflect on their calling and to be ready to open to where God is leading them."



Name: Todd Murray

Parish: San Jose Church, Hereford

Occupation: Fire Marshal/EMC

Wife: Anna Murray

Children: Michael Murray, Marissa Mungia, Anissa Hazzard, Briana Alvarez and Nathan Murray

You are a convert to the Catholic Faith. What led you to become a member of the Church?

"The first and foremost memory that led me to my conversion, I would have to say is my wife. She would always ask me to join her for Mass and I couldn't make myself attend. Then one day after they came home from Mass, my youngest son asked me how come they had to go to church every Sunday and I didn't. I did not have a good answer for him, so I thought I would give in, make them happy and go once to just get them quiet about it. Little did I know, that one Sunday, turned into being the first one dressed and ready to go every Sunday morning. As time went on,

This class of Deacons will be the tenth class of Permanent Deacons ordained for the Diocese of Amarillo. Previous classes were ordained in 1977, 1981, 1988, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2020.

Please Pray For Vocations To The Priesthood And Religious Life in the Diocese of Amarillo

I wanted more, so I asked about RCIA (Julia Scott, my amazing teacher) and the next thing you know, I'm sitting in class and two years go by.

"I had had a previous marriage, so the paperwork took what seemed like forever to get back from the Vatican. So long, that I missed out on my sacraments for that round. I remember kneeling one morning in church and talking to God, I told him I guess you don't want me, Boy. did God have other plans..... After Mass that day Father David Contreras said he had forgotten to tell me my paperwork was back and everything was good. It was finally happening, the beauty of it was that my daughter Briana, my son Nathan and I were all receiving our First Communion that Easter Vigil. After all that time, my wife was also able to participate in the communion service. From the time that she led me to Him, she hadn't received either so for her it was her first time in years. People were crying that night—ok, maybe I was. I am on fire for this church and for Him. My wife sometimes has to tell me to slow down, but she is with me through it all."

What was the one thing that surprised you in the five years of formation as a Permanent Deacon?

"The only thing that surprised me...that we don't get paid (laughs); that's for Deacon Blaine Westlake and the rest that told us that some 500 million times in the first year of formation.

"Seriously, I would have to say the important role that the Deacon portrays as a whole. The role he has as a servant to not only the Church and the community, but to the whole diocese. The role that I speak of is not something to be taken lightly. St. Stephen left some big shoes to fill and all the deacons after him. The true importance of a deacon is answering the call and that's just being the first step. God doesn't call the qualified; he qualifies the called."

Name: Rudy Munoz

Parish: St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa

Occupation: Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Pampa

Wife: Sylvia Munoz

Children: Mary Laub, Edward Munoz, David Munoz, Juanita Munoz, Stacy Munoz, Carolyn Anguiano

During your formation,



were there any topics that really changed your understanding and appreciation of the Church?

"Yes, the topics on the Church's history and our forefathers. It was amazing to me how much I learned. Like the forefathers, all the suffering they did to teach the word of God. One was how they had to fight the Incarnation of Jesus. How can the Lord be truly God and truly man? And about our most Holy Mother, how could she still be a virgin after having given birth to Jesus. Or like not believing in the Eucharist. I pray as I move forward as a deacon I will be able to help and give a clear understanding to these questions. We as deacons have a hard road to follow, but we will do our best to see Jesus in every person we meet."

How did your children react, when they learned of your plans to study for the Permanent Diaconate?

"At first, they really didn't seem to be worried about it because they are all grown and don't live with us, so they didn't think it would affect them much. As time went on, they felt affected, since we had to miss a lot of family gatherings. They didn't realize how much we weren't going to be there with them. But as time went on, they realized how important this was for me and my family. They are very happy with the accomplishment I have done, and they are looking forward to ordination day."

Name: Dwayne Rickwartz

Parish: St Hyacinth Church, Amarillo

Occupation: Owner of Top of Texas Catholic SuperStore

Wife: Maria "Lupe" Rickwartz

Children: Michael Rickwartz, Joey Rickwartz, Angela Rickwartz, Joshua Rickwartz and Solomon Rickwartz

Define the term... full commitment to service?



"Full commitment to service means to be completely open and available to the will of God. It means that you not only want to do His will, but that you will make yourself available to do His will. All of us live out that commitment in our everyday lives through the love we show to others. At work, we treat our co-workers and customers with dignity and charity; at home, we love and respect our family members even during difficult times; in the public, we make sure that our words and our actions are indicative of the love of Christ. These things are required of every Christian.

"By his ordination, a deacon is called to service not as a way of life, but as a matter of being. He is a deacon 24/7. He serves from the time he wakes up until he goes to sleep. If he can figure out a way to do it, he serves while he is asleep also. While it is easy to see a deacon serve at Mass, and maybe teach classes, or serve on Church ministries, a deacon also serves when he leaves the Church building. By his words and his works, he is called to serve Christ at all times, leading people closer to Christ in everything that he says or does. This is the commitment. This is his life. It is not just a desire to serve, but a willingness and availability to serve."

It is very rare that a class of Permanent Deacons has two brothers. Whose idea was it initially to pursue the Permanent Diaconate?

"I had begun formation once before while I was in the Diocese of San Angelo. I had to leave due to some health issues. Shortly after we moved back to Amarillo, a class started, and I really wanted to join it. I did not have my wife's support at that time. When this class opened up, I applied pretty early. I told Kevin that I was applying, and

he told me that he was planning to go also. So, I guess that I was first to decide to join formation. It was not really discussed as a 'let's do this together' sort of thing, but it has been very nice having him with me on this journey."



Name: Kevin J. Rickwartz

Parish: St. Ann's Church, Canyon

Occupation: Medical Doctor

Wife: Cheryl J. Rickwartz

Children: Dori Latham, Arin Shelton, Roger "Trey" Witt, Jenna Evans and Luke Rickwartz

Define the importance of charity as a Permanent Deacon?

"Charity is another word for Love. According to the apostle John, God is Love. Although God has a different plan for each of us, we are all called to serve Him in love. There is no such thing as love without service. For me, it was a little like Jesus' conversation with Peter in *John Ch. 21*. Jesus asks Peter, 'Do you love me?' Peter responds, 'Lord, you know that I love You.' Jesus says, 'Feed my sheep.' Of course, thankfully, God doesn't call me to be the pope, but I hear His call to serve His people. The Diaconate is a Ministry of Service. I can think of no better way to serve God than to serve His people in His Church."

How will your ministry as a Permanent Deacon tie in with your vocation as a physician?

"For over 25 years, I have been involved in promoting physical health and helping to heal physical ailments. It has been a very rewarding endeavor, but people are so much more than just their bodies. If they weren't, then my profession would be largely an exercise in futility. After all, we will all live forever, but not here. To serve God as a permanent deacon will offer God (through me) the opportunity to promote health of soul and to help heal spiritual ailments. I am eager to begin. Am I able or wor-

thy to fulfill the demands of such a ministry? Of course not. I have often failed God, but He has never failed me. I rely on Grace."



Name: Martin M. Ruiz

Parish: San Jose Church, Hereford

Occupation: Reliability Maintenance at Cargill Beef in Friona

Wife: Margarita González Ruiz

Children: Gabriela Ruiz, Jessica R, Ayala, Miranda Ruiz and Alexis Martin Ruiz

Define your ministry as a deacon...

"My ministry as a deacon is a call to serve as a bridge between the Church and those in need fostering unity, compassion and hope. With prayers, service and love I will embrace my call not to be served, but to serve and serve with humility, Faith and obedience, proclaiming the Gospel and assisting in the celebration of the Sacred Mystery for the Glory of God and His Holy Church."

You are one of three new Deacons from San Jose Church, Hereford. Did this process of formation bring the three of you closer together as brothers?

"Throughout the process of deacon formation, me and my two brothers—Todd, Jesus and myself—have developed a friendship where we feel the pains and sufferings of each other as our own. Not just these two, but the whole class has learned to embrace each other together with love, Faith and hope by supporting each other, to be able to serve with humility and obedience on this new path that we have been called. I give thanks to my Lord for letting me be part of this beautifully family."

**Thanks for reading
The West Texas
Catholic**



Chris Burk, a parishioner at St. Martin de Porres Church, Amarillo, stirs a pot of green beans Oct. 18 prior to the parish's annual Chicken Dinner. (WTC Photo)

A Notable Anniversary In Umbarger

Umbarger—Monday, Dec. 8 will mark the 80th anniversary of the completion of artwork at St. Mary's Church by Italian Prisoners of War stationed at Camp Hereford.

To mark this notable anniversary, St. Mary's Church is celebrating with a number of activities in the next several weeks.

On **Saturday, Nov. 22**, a bus trip to the Castro County Historical Museum in Dimmitt and to the Prisoners of War Camp outside of Hereford will be offered, beginning at 10:30am. Author Joe D. Rogers, who wrote his master's thesis about the camp, will give a presentation about the camp and a tour of the camp to see the chapel is also scheduled. Lunch will be provided.

Painted Sanctuary: Italian POW's and the Umbarger Community is the theme of a Wine and Cheese social on **Friday, Dec. 5** from 5:00pm to 8:00pm in the parish hall at St. Mary's Church, 22830 Pondaseta Road. Michaela Wegman will offer a presentation and artifacts from the Panhandle

Plains Historical Museum in Canyon will be on display.

The following morning, *Behind the Murals: Art Making in POW Camps* will be presented on the St. Mary's Church grounds from 9:00 to noon. The morning includes mural viewing and discussion.

Panhandle Plains Historical Museum is helping parishioners at St. Mary's Church create an exhibition that will be on display now through Sunday, Dec. 7 in the St. Mary's Parish Hall.

"Thanks to the Christian Mothers and Men's Group at St. Mary's Church, who have graciously offered to assist with various details," said St. Mary's parishioner Laurie Wegman. "We continue to seek more volunteers and sponsors for these events. Some of the proceeds from these events will go toward the upkeep of the POW Chapel."

Learn more about these events at St. Mary's Church by going online to stmarysumbarger.com. Pre-registration for these events is encouraged, so that ample food can be served.

"The condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church."

**—Pope Leo XIV
Dilexi Te**

Pope Names St. John Henry Newman 'Doctor Of The Church'

Vatican City (CNS)—The lives of St. John Henry Newman and of all the saints teach Christians that "it is possible to live passionately amidst the complexity of the present without neglecting the apostolic mandate to 'shine like stars in the world,'" Pope Leo XIV said.

Celebrating Mass Nov. 1, the feast of All Saints, Pope Leo concluded the Jubilee of the World of Education and proclaimed St. Newman the 38th doctor of the Church, including him among the men and women of the Christian East and West who have made decisive contributions to theology and spirituality.

Earlier in the week, Pope Leo had officially recognized St. Newman as co-patron of education along with St. Thomas Aquinas.

St. Newman was born in London Feb. 21, 1801, was ordained an Anglican priest in 1825, became Catholic in 1845 and was made a cardinal in 1879 by Pope Leo XIII. He died in 1890.

Leading members of the Anglican Church of England and the British government attended the Mass where he was declared a doctor of the Church. The Anglican delegation was led by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell of York, currently the top-ranking prelate of the Church of England. The government delegation was led by David Lammy, deputy prime minister of the United Kingdom and secretary of state for justice.

Greeting Archbishop Cottrell publicly at the end of Mass, Pope Leo prayed that St. Newman would "accompany the journey of Christians toward full unity."

The banner used during St. Newman's canonization Mass in 2019 hung from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica during the Mass and his relics were placed on a table near the altar.

Deacons Ordination

Deacons in the Diocese of Amarillo noting an ordination anniversary in the month of November include:

Deacon Mauricio Valadez
Nov. 21

38th Annual Retirement Fund For Religious Collection

Washington, DC (NRRO)—The annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection is set for Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 14 in Catholic parishes across the nation. The collection is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) with the proceeds assisting religious communities across the country to care for aging members.

In 2024, Catholics across the Diocese of Amarillo contributed \$47,605.43 to the collection, mostly through their home parishes. From the collection, the Capuchin Poor Clares of the Blessed Sacrament, Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate and School Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis received a combined total of \$218,023.27 in financial assistance.

"The generosity of U.S. Catholics continues to make a profound difference in the lives of aging religious," said John Knutsen, NRRO director. "This year, we invite all Catholics to help provide the care and dignity these women and men of Faith so richly deserve."

Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests—collectively known as women and men religious—have selflessly served for decades without significant financial compensation. However, due to escalating health-care costs, numerous U.S. religious communities face a substantial gap between their elderly members' needs and the financial resources available for their care. Many religious or-

ders currently experience insufficient retirement savings.

In 2024, the appeal raised over \$28.1 million, providing financial assistance for the retirement needs of 266 U.S. religious communities. Beyond financial aid, the collection supports educational programs, empowering religious communities to plan for their long-term needs.

Distributions are sent to each eligible order's central house, which provides supplemental funding for necessities, such as medications and nursing care. Donations also underwrite resources that help religious communities improve eldercare and plan for long-term retirement needs.

In addition to direct financial assistance, proceeds from the annual appeal underwrite educational programming, services and resources that enable religious communities to evaluate and prepare for long-term retirement needs.

Since its inception by Catholic Bishops in 1988, the collection has distributed more than \$1 billion to religious institutes across the U.S. It also funds educational programs for eldercare and long-term retirement planning, with nearly \$900 million distributed for direct care and over \$103.7 million allocated to retirement planning projects.

Today, religious past 70 outnumber religious under age 70 by nearly three-to-one. There are 20,571 religious past age 70 living in the United States.

Visit retiredreligious.org for more information.

Pope: Hope Doesn't Mean Having All The Answers

Vatican City (CNS)—Living in hope means accepting that one does not have answers to all questions and staying calm amid conflicts and tensions, Pope Leo XIV said.

"We do not have the answers to all the questions already. But we have Jesus. We follow Jesus. And so, we hope for what we do not yet see," the pope told pilgrims at a special Jubilee general audience Oct. 25.

In the pope's brief remarks, he offered pilgrims the example of Nicholas of Cusa, a German cardinal and papal diplomat in the 1400s, which the pope described as "an equally troubled age" of wars

between nations and divisions among Christians.

But, the pope said in English, "despite the tensions, Nicholas hoped for what he could not see and trusted that God could find unity."

Hope means trusting God that "things are not as they seem," the pope said. The resurrection of Jesus means "love has triumphed, even though before our eyes we see many contradictions and the clash of many opposites."

Christians today should learn from Nicholas, he said. "When we do not know the answers let us remember the Risen One and ask him to lead us, step by step, on the journey of hope."



Carlos Cárdenas of El Paso was the keynote speaker Oct. 21 following the conclusion of the 14th Red Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo. (WTC Photo by Stefani Wilhelm)

Prison Ministry

Amarillo—The prison ministry team in the Diocese of Amarillo is recruiting ordained deacons or lay volunteers for this special ministry. Those interested in this ministry are asked to contact Deacon Blaine Westlake at 806-383-2243, ext. 117.

Diocese of Amarillo

Job Opening: Youth Ministry Assistant

The Diocese of Amarillo is accepting applications for the part-time position of Youth Ministry Assistant. The purpose of this position is to assist the the Youth Director in the operation of the Youth Office. A priority is to maintain and update mailing lists. This position is also responsible for preparing documents for meetings, establishing records of activity, note taking at meetings and bulk mailings. As Youth Ministry Assistant you will correspond with priests and parish youth ministers, organize the department's calendar, keep on top of scheduled events and deadlines. Other duties might include helping lower department costs, maintain websites and social media, making travel arrangements, filing and arranging activities for retreats and conferences.

Qualifications Required:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Computer skills including Microsoft Office
- Knowledge and ability to use office equipment
- Eagerness to learn and to assist other when needed
- Ability to work alone and be a team player
- Understanding of confidentiality is a must
- A working knowledge of the Catholic Faith is an advantage
- Verbal and written skills in both English and Spanish is an advantage
- Other skills like web and video editing skills is an advantage



Resumes will be accepted until position is filled or Monday, December 29 and should be mailed to: Oscar Guzman **Diocese of Amarillo**
P.O. Box 5644
Amarillo, TX 79117-5644
Or emailed to: oguzman@dioama.org.

Vatican Announces Theme For World Mission Sunday 2026

Vatican City (CNS)—When the Catholic Church celebrates World Mission Sunday for the 100th time in 2026, it will focus on the theme, *One in Christ, united in mission*.

The theme, chosen by Pope Leo XIV, is a reflection of his episcopal motto, *In Illo uno unum*, or literally *In the One, we are one*.

The Vatican announced Oct. 31 the theme for the 2026 observance, which will be celebrated Sunday, Oct. 18. A papal message on the theme is expected in early February.

The theme “highlights the unity of believers in the Faith, founded on the unity of Christ with the Father and the consequent shared mission of evangelization,” the Vatican said.

For World Mission Sunday, Catholics around the globe spend time learning about the Catholic missions, pray in support of missionaries and make donations to support the work of the Church in mission lands.

As an Augustinian priest, Pope Leo had served in the missions in Peru from 1985 to 1999 and then as apostolic administrator and later bishop of Chiclayo from 2014 to 2023.

Attention:

According to Bishop Patrick J. Zurek no activities

are to be scheduled on the parish or diocesan level in the Diocese of Amarillo

on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026 until after 1:00pm.

This is to accommodate the annual

Respect Life Mass

which will remember the 53rd anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v Wade decision.



Father Guadalupe “Lupe” Mayorga, pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Pampa, welcomes participants to a Marriage Retreat Oct. 25 in the Pastoral Education Center (PEC) at the parish. Retreat officials say 42 couples took part in the one-day retreat. (WTC Photo)

Annual Community Prayer Breakfast Nov. 25

Amarillo—Julie Miller, executive director and co-founder of the Adera Foundation, will be the keynote speaker for the 36th annual Community Prayer Breakfast Tuesday, Nov. 25 at the Amarillo Civic Center.

Tickets for the Prayer Breakfast are \$10.00 each and available at the door or online at amaprayerbreakfast.org. Tables of eight are available for sponsorship at \$250 each. Serving lines for the meal open at 6:00am, with the program beginning at 6:45.

Julie Miller has worked with children and families professionally and personally for over 40 years. Not only did she raise and educate her own six children, but she has also trained other women in parenting and educating their children. Miller owns a Bachelor's in Social Work and a Master's in Public Leadership from the University of North Texas in Dallas.

She also serves as an adjunct professor in Neeley Business School at TCU.

Describing herself as a “PVC pipe,” Miller said her greatest joy is serving as a conduit, connecting the talents and resources of individuals to the needs of communities. She has been Executive Director of the Adera Foundation since 2012. Miller and her husband, Ken, have been married for 45 years and live in Fort Worth.

The Amarillo Community Prayer Breakfast is an annual event designed to mobilize prayer and spiritual support in a “non-church” setting for governmental and community leadership serving this community on a local, state and national basis and to acknowledge the community's dependence on God for its well-being. For additional details on the breakfast, visit the event's website, amaprayerbreakfast.org.

“God is merciful love, and His plan of love, which unfolds and is fulfilled in history, is above all His descent and coming among us to free us from slavery, fear, sin and the power of death.”

—Pope Leo XIV
Dilexi Te

Sister Louise Sharum, OSB: 1931-2025



Sister Louise Sharum, OSB

Fort Smith, Ark.—Benedictine Sister Louise Sharum, who taught at Saint Joseph's School and Alamo Catholic High School (now Holy Cross Catholic Academy), both in Amarillo, passed away Oct. 26. She was 94 years old.

Mass was celebrated Nov. 3, St. Scholastica Monastery Chapel, Father Jerome Kodell, OSB and Father Joseph Chan, concelebrating. Internment was in the columbarium in St. Scholastica's Cemetery.

Elizabeth Louise Sharum was born on Aug. 31, 1931, the youngest of 10 children born to Simon and Isabell Sharum in Massard, Ark. The family attended St. Boniface Church, where she was both baptized and confirmed. "Betty Lou," as she was known to her family, attended St. Boniface for her elementary education and St. Scholastica Academy for her high school years.

Sharum entered St. Scholastica Convent in Aug. 1945, during her

sophomore year of high school. She had to wait until 1948 to be old enough to become a novice. Sharum made her Temporary Profession on June 24, 1950, and her Perpetual Profession on June 24, 1953. She was given the name Sister De Sales, but returned to Louise, her baptismal name, in 1967. Sister Louise received her Bachelor's from Mount St. Scholastica College, in Atchison, Kan.; her Master's from St. Louis University in St. Louis; and, her Ph.D. in history from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. She served as an educator for many years, teaching grades one through college; she taught in Arkansas, Missouri and Texas. In Texas, Sister Louise taught at Saint Joseph's and Alamo Catholic High in Amarillo and at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. In 1979, she received a Spiritual Director Certification from Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery in Pecos, NM.

Sister Louise was preceded in death by her parents; nine siblings, Julia Cordelia Seibold, Daniel Sharum, James Michael Sharum, Mary Ebbing Wilhelm, Rose Weindel, Simon Sharum, Richard Sharum, Sister Veronica Sharum, OSB and Father Peter Sharum, OSB; and an aunt, Sister Bernice Seibold, OSB. Survivors include her co-directors, Sisters Lisa Atkins, RSM, and Anita DeSalvo, RSM; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; and the members of her religious community.

"The Gospel shows us that poverty marked every aspect of Jesus' life. From the moment He entered the world, Jesus knew the bitter experience of rejection."

**—Pope Leo XIV
Dilexi Te**

Jamaica Calendar

Parishes planning Jamaica celebrations, parish dinners, parish celebrations and parish fundraisers are encouraged to email information about these celebrations to westtexasatholic@gmail.com. These dates are published as a public service. Unless otherwise noted, the celebrations will take place at the parish.

TODAY (SUNDAY)

Nazareth—Christian Mothers Thanksgiving Dinner, Community Hall

SUNDAY, JAN. 25

Bovina—German Sausage Dinner Parish Hall, St. Ann's Church
SATURDAY, FEB. 7

Amarillo—Fundraiser to benefit the Catholic Student Center at West Texas A&M University, St. Thomas the Apostle Church
SUNDAY, FEB. 14

Amarillo—Valentine's Day Steak Dinner and Dance, Bishop Zurek Parish Hall, Blessed Sacrament Church

Pampa—Parish Fundraiser, Pastoral Education Center, St. Vincent de Paul Church
SUNDAY, FEB. 15

Amarillo—Brisket Dinner, Saint Joseph's School Gym
TUESDAY, FEB. 17

Canyon—Knights of Columbus Council #7840 Shrove Tuesday Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Ann's Church
SUNDAY, FEB. 22

Amarillo—Catholic Daughters of America Court #2472 Enchilada Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Martin de Porres Church
SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Canyon—Czech Sausage Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Ann's Church

Friona—Mexican Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Teresa of Jesus Church

Hereford—Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Auction to benefit St. Anthony's School, St. Anthony's School Gym

Pampa—Polish Sausage Dinner, Pastoral Education Center St. Vincent de Paul Church

Stratford—German Sausage Dinner to benefit St. Joseph's Church, Sherman County Barn
SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Amarillo—German Sausage Dinner, Parish Hall, St. Francis of Assisi Church

Twenty Something By Christina Capecchi

Unsinkable Faith: Daughter Of The Edmund Fitzgerald

It was a Monday afternoon in November when Debbie Champagne got the call. The 17-year-old, a senior at St. Pius XI in Milwaukee, left school immediately, taking two buses to get home.

There, she found her mother and grandmother parked by the telephone, distraught. They feared the worst: that Debbie's father, Buck, had gone down in a shipwreck.

The Edmund Fitzgerald.

That evening, confirmation came—and with it, rain.

Debbie bolted outside and ran three blocks to the rectory, where she frantically rang the doorbell and pounded on the door.

"I was desperate for some kind of consolation," she said. "Why? How could God do this? I needed answers. I wanted to talk to one of the priests."

Father Dennis answered, sitting down with the teen and calming her.

"This isn't for us to question," the middle-aged priest told her.

"For me, that was so unacceptable as an explanation," she said.

Being Catholic had been central to Debbie's life. She'd always attended Catholic school—her dad had insisted on it. She never missed Mass on Sunday. She taught CCD. She sang in the choir. And she worked for the Notre Dame nuns who ran her school. "I loved all the nuns there," Debbie said. "I was doing what I could to help the Church."

But her world no longer made sense. Beneath the sorrow burned a raw anger at God.

Debbie stopped going to Mass.

She still talked to God, but she couldn't reconcile her loss with her faith. A loving God. A brutal storm. Her father, at the very worst spot at the very worst time.

Closure was hard to come by. No body, no casket. Just an empty grave.

Debbie had a recurring nightmare of seeing her dad's hand stretching out of Lake Superior and trying to clutch it but not reaching it in time.

A year later, Debbie found her

way back to church.

"Finally, I just accepted it," she said. "I came to peace with everything, and my Faith made me stronger instead of pushing me away in anger. We give it up to God because there's nothing we can do to bring him back."

Now 67 and a widowed grandmother, Debbie's Catholic Faith has become an anchor to her father, who always cherished his Catholic Faith.

"It connects us," said Debbie, who belongs to St. Charles in Hartland, Wis. "There are times I feel his presence—especially when I go to church and I'm praying. I say a prayer that he's at peace in Heaven and joined with my mom and all his friends and now Gordon Lightfoot playing his guitar."

Sometimes she imagines her dad's final moments as the ship broke in half, engulfed by 50-foot waves. She assumes he was praying *Hail Marys*.

"I think he really dug into his Faith because that's your stronghold during those times," Debbie said.

This month marked the 50th anniversary of the Edmund Fitzgerald's sinking. Debbie gathered with other family members of the 29-member crew at Whitefish Bay to ring the bell rescued from the ship.

Their stories are chronicled in a fascinating new book by John U. Bacon called *The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald*.

With exhaustive research and reporting, Bacon's undertaking was inherently Catholic: to dignify each crew member, to demonstrate that they had mattered, that they still matter. The book illuminates "the faces and names of the wives and the sons and the daughters," as Lightfoot famously sang.

For Debbie, it's another way to honor her dad. "I've tried very hard to keep his memory alive and make him proud."

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Grey Cloud Island, Minn.

The Diocesan Pastoral Center will close at noon Wednesday, Nov. 26 for the Thanksgiving Holidays. The Pastoral Center will reopen on Monday, Dec. 1 at 9:00am.

The Office of the Victim's Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Amarillo

Please direct concerns, questions, or to report sexual abuse involving Church Personnel, to include Clergy, Religious, Employees, and Volunteers in any Catholic Institution to:

Sharyn Delgado
Victim Assistance Coordinator
719 South Austin
Amarillo, TX 79106

Phone: 806-671-4830
FAX: 806-373-4662
Email: skdelgado@aol.com

Worship Prayer Movie Night

Panhandle—Catholics and non-Catholics are invited to the next *Worship Prayer Movie Night* for teens and young adults. The evening, hosted by the Franciscan Sisters of Christ the Light, is scheduled Friday, Dec. 19.

The evening begins at 6:00 in the St. Francis House of Prayer at 125 John Paul Circle with a Holy Hour of Praise and Worship music, prayer and a brief time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There is also a simple meal served during a movie chosen for its relativity for Faith and the modern world, according to Sister Mary Michael Huseman.

The evening is scheduled to conclude at 9:30. For more details, please call Sancta Maria Convent at 806-537-3182.

ACTS Retreats

Amarillo—A Youth ACTS (Adoration, Community, Theology and Service) Retreat is scheduled Thursday, Jan. 1 through Sunday, Jan. 4, at the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, 2100 North Spring. Registration forms are available at parish offices or through the ACTS

Community website, actsamarillo.org. For additional information about ACTS in the Diocese of Amarillo, please contact Jimmy Hund at 806-344-4842.

Engaged Encounter

Amarillo—Couples in the Diocese of Amarillo planning to get married within the next three to six months are encouraged to attend the first Engaged Encounter weekend of 2026 Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22 at the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, 2100 North Spring.

For more details about the Engaged Encounter weekend or to sign up, please contact Ana Mendoza at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 806-414-1059.

Joseph's Project:**A Pregnancy Resource Center**

Amarillo—Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle offers a program designed for moms who are pregnant or families with kids who are up to three-years of age or who have legal custody of a child under the age of three.

Joseph's Project: A Pregnancy Resource Center is tailored for ex-

pectant mothers and for those with new families.

For additional details about *Joseph's Project: A Pregnancy Resource Center* or to assist with a donation of material assistance, such as diapers, wipes, unopened formula or clothing, please contact Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle at 806-376-4571.

Catholic Community Scripture Study

Amarillo—The Catholic Community Scripture Study, which began in September 1990, is now meeting Wednesday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 at St. Hyacinth Church, 4500 West Hills Trail.

As in the past, the weekly gathering focuses on the scripture insights from *At Home with the Word* for a preview of the coming Sunday Scriptures.

Everyone is welcome on any Wednesday morning that he or she can attend. For additional information please call Teresa Hunt at 806-676-9445.

Contemplative Power Hour

Amarillo—The Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center at 2100 North



Jair Hernandez of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dumas, was one of two musicians who provided music Nov. 9 during the 36th annual Thanksgiving Dinner in the parish's Pastoral Center. (WTC Photo)

Spring is offering a Contemplative Power Hour on Tuesdays, from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Adoration will take place from 11:00 to 11:30, followed by the recitation of the Rosary at 11:30 and Contemplative Prayer at noon.

There is no charge and those attending are encouraged to stay for the entire time or for a portion. For more details about the Contemplative Power Hour please call the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center at 806-383-1811.

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Amarillo—Felicita H. “Nena” Diaz, 92, passed away Sept. 30. Mass was celebrated Oct. 4, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Father John Valdez, pastor, presiding, with Father Avitus K. Siriwa, parochial vicar, St. Mary’s Cathedral, concelebrating. Burial was in Llano Cemetery. Survivors include two daughters, Sylvia Ochoa and her husband Gilbert of San Antonio and Theresa Cruz and her husband Mark of Amarillo; five grandchildren, Marisa Valdez of San Antonio, Danielle Diaz and Dominic Díaz and his wife Aline, all of Amarillo, Tomás Cruz and his wife Kristen of Charlotte and Dr. Andy Cruz of Boston; nine great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Plainview—Ruben Diaz, 94, passed away Sept. 30. Mass was celebrated Oct. 22, Sacred Heart Church. Survivors include his wife, Manuela Diaz; 13 children, Tina Rodriguez and her husband Eddie, Veronica Sanchez, Ruben Diaz Jr. and his wife Stephanie, David Diaz and Rebecca Diaz, all of Plainview, Arthur Diaz of San Diego, Lisa Hood and her husband Mark of Fort Smith, Ark., Rachel Diaz of Lubbock, Daniel Diaz of Pampa, Carlos Diaz, Oralia Diaz, Delia Ornelas and her husband Joe and Nora Tapia and her husband Angel, all of Odessa; 37 grandchildren; 52 great-grandchildren; and 17 great-great grandchildren.

Spearman—Celina Sintas, 74, passed away Oct. 3. Mass was celebrated Oct. 10, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Father Anthony Aakula, presiding. Survivors include a son, Joseph; a daughter, Angula and son-in-law, Jesse; four grandchildren, Anthony and his wife Kelsey, Victoria and her husband Griffin, Zaniah and Zebediah; and two great-grandchildren, Lilian and Fisher, with another on the way.

Amarillo—Kurt Richard Schoch, 72, passed away Oct. 5. Mass was celebrated Oct. 10, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Father John Valdez, pastor, presiding. Interment was in Memory Gardens Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Margaret Schoch; two daughters, Megan Mackenzie and Sarah Hallmark and her husband Travis, all of Austin; a son, Scott Schoch of Amarillo; and a grandson, Alex Mackenzie.

Amarillo—Jaime Aguayo Caballero, 74, passed away Oct. 5. Mass was celebrated Oct. 21, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Father Taylor Elzner, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Llano Cemetery. Survivors include two sisters, Ester Castillo and Rosalba Garcia; a brother, Manuel Caballero; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Amarillo—Guadalupe “Lupe” Longoria Bautista, 71, passed away Oct. 7. Mass was celebrated Oct. 10, St. Joseph’s Church, Father Gabriel E. Garcia, pastor, presiding. Survivors include her husband, William Bautista; three sons, Steve Bautista and his wife Josi Fogo and Matthew Bautista of Amarillo and Paul Bautista and wife Ashley of Lubbock; a daughter, Kristen Sanchez and her husband Ernest of Amarillo; two sisters, Sylvia Angel of Amarillo and Mary Chavez of Atlanta; 10 grandchildren, Beta, Dray, Jacob, Hannah, Victor, Rex, Kayden, Olivia, Aleya and Marcus; and two great-grandchildren, Leam and Ezzy.

Plainview—Benita Munoz De Rubio, 78, passed away Oct. 8. Mass was celebrated Oct. 14, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Burial was in Plainview Memorial Park. Survivors include four sons, Jose Arroyo of Tulia, Cesar Cecilio Arroyo, Rogelio Arroyo Jr. and his wife Gracie and Richard Rubio, Jr. all of Plainview; two daughters,

Maria Guadalupe Arroyo and Patricia Arroyo, both of Plainview; a brother, Juan Munoz of Monterey, Mexico; a sister, Rosa Munoz of Chihuahua, Mexico; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Amarillo—Rito Reynosa Carrasco, 87, passed away Oct. 9. Mass was celebrated Oct. 14, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Father Taylor Elzner, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Llano Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Angie Carrasco; three children, Rita Ballin, Pat Carrasco and Johnny Carrasco; nine grandchildren, Tanya Ballin, Virgie Carrasco, Amanda Ballin, Angela Garcia, Sonja Garcia, Cassandra Soleyjacks and her husband Robert, John Carrasco Jr., Patrick Rueda and Isaiah Carrasco; 18 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild on the way.

Vega—Richard Sandoval, 90, passed away Oct. 9. Mass was celebrated Oct. 14, Immaculate Conception Church, Father Mieczyslaw “Mitch” Przepiora, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery. Survivors include seven daughters, Donna Martinez, Molly Sandoval, Lupe Castillo, Stella Sandoval, Andrea Flores, Yvonne Zavala and Laura Alvarez; a son, Alex Sandoval; three

brothers, Benjamin Sandoval, Cipriano Sandoval Jr. and George Sandoval; five sisters, Lucy, Patsy, Eva, Joani and Maryann; 26 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Amarillo—Edwin Jerome Henke, 91, passed away Oct. 10. Mass was celebrated Oct. 18, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Father John Valdez, pastor, presiding. Entombment was in Llano Cemetery. Survivors include five children, Denise Brakey and her husband David of Garden City, Kan., David Henke and his wife Michelle of Flower Mound, Doris Leverett and her husband Jay of Amarillo, Daniel Henke and his wife Lori of Reeds Spring, Mo. and Darrin Henke and his wife Mary-Margaret of Denver; two sisters, Barbara Wagner and Joyce Henke, both of Downs, Kan.; a brother-in-law, Richard Reinert of Downs; two sisters-in-law, Virginia Johnson of Denver and Evon Henke of Osborne, Kan.; 11 grandchildren, Richard Jagels and his wife Tami, Ryan Jagels and his wife Shanna, Danelle Reeves and her husband Jason, Reid Jagels and his wife Danielle, Carson Leverett and his wife Sarah, Brandon Henke and his wife Rachel, Britt Henke, Luke Henke and his wife Rena, Megan Crowe and her

husband Landon, John Henke and Michael Henke; and 12 great-grandchildren, Reese, McKenna, Cooper, Jalen, Braden, Jackson, Graysen, Olivia, Wesley, Maggie, Halle and Hayden.

Dalhart—Amelia Sifuentes, 74, passed away Oct. 12. A Graveside Service was conducted Oct. 16, Memorial Park Cemetery, Deacon Michael Anzaldúa of St. Anthony of Padua Church, presiding. Survivors include four daughters, Marjee Jones and her husband Dale of Haslet, Edith Weatherford and her husband Roger of Amarillo and Melissa Newburn and her husband J.R. and Nerie Skelton and her husband Bryan Skelton, all of Dalhart; two sons, Bennie Sifuentes and his wife Dee Dee of Hereford and Simon Sifuentes Jr. and his wife Becky of Whitharral; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Amarillo—Jesus Molina Saenz, 61, passed away Oct. 12. Mass was celebrated Oct. 17, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Father John Valdez, pastor, presiding. Survivors include his wife, Olga Molina; three children, Jesus Molina, Orlando Molina and Maria Molina; his mother, Maria Saenz; and two grandchildren, Laryxa Gonzalez

Please remember in prayer the clergy of the Diocese of Amarillo who died during the month of November:

Deacon Belvin Dollins, Nov. 4, 2012

Father John Hickey, Nov. 8, 2014

Father Aram Berard, S.J., Nov. 9, 2008

Father John H. Krukkert, Nov. 11, 1947

Father Joseph Gregor, C.M., Nov. 15, 1980

Monsignor Richard Vaughan, Nov. 15, 2000

Father Hubert J. Halfmann, Nov. 17, 1976

Father Leonard E. Curtis, O.P., Nov. 17, 1995

Father Norbert Wagner, Nov. 19, 1979

Father John Kiesling, Nov. 23, 2017

Father Francis Kaminsky, Nov. 26, 1957

Father Joseph Declan Gilligan, S.A., Nov. 26, 1987

Father Jerome A. Hancox, Nov. 30, 1974

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Amarillo—Leroy J. Kitten, 86, passed away Oct. 12. Mass was celebrated Oct. 16, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Father John Valdez, pastor, presiding. Burial with Military Honors was in Llano Cemetery. Survivors include his wife Ann Kitten of Amarillo; seven children, Allison Tse and her husband Chris of San Antonio, Lori Robinett and her husband John, Dee Neise Hurd and her husband Mike and Melany Robinson and her husband Tony, all of Amarillo, Wendy Hill and her husband John of Northlake, Mike Dickerson and his wife Tina of Las Vegas and Jay Dickerson of Dallas; 23 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Hereford—Simón Salinas, 68, passed away Oct. 13. Mass was celebrated Oct. 17, San Jose Church, Father Shane D. Wieck, pastor, presiding. Burial was in St. Anthony’s Cemetery. Survivors include his parents, David and Maria Luz Salinas of Friona; his wife, Maria Gloria Salinas of Hereford; four sons, Simon F. Salinas, Jr. and his wife Raquel of Friona, David B. Salinas and his wife Ruby of Amarillo, Juan Pablo Salinas and Jimmy Salinas and his wife Emily, all of Hereford; 10 siblings, Jose Salinas and his wife Antonia, Cornelio Salinas and his wife Margarita, Serafin Salinas and his wife Imelda and Maria Rivera and her husband Antonio, all of Hereford, Mario Salinas and his wife Martha, Bernardo Salinas and his wife

Amelia, David Salinas Jr. and his wife Elvira and Aaron Salinas and his wife Rufina, all of Friona, Emma Zepeda and her husband Salud of Dimmitt and Flor Ortega and her husband Rafael of Houston; eight grandchildren, Fabian, Merary, Mateo, Sofia, Kaleb, Illyana, Isaac and Arilynn; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Pampa—Juan Antonio Polendo, 86, passed away Oct. 21. Mass was celebrated Oct. 24, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Father Guadalupe “Lupe” Mayorga, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Memory Gardens Cemetery. Survivors include three daughters, Angie Summers and her husband Joseph of Pampa, Irene Maddux of Denton and Dolores Kidd and her husband Donnie of McGregor; a son, John Anthony Polendo of Whitney; two brothers, Felix Polendo and Mario Polendo; a sister, Mary Martinez; seven grandchildren, Lauren Wilemon, Josh Summers, Logan Polendo, Trey Youngblood, Taylor Maddux, Lindsey Kidd and Kaymen Craven and her husband Cody; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Perryton—Domingo Medina Ochoa, 85, passed away Oct. 21. Mass was celebrated Oct. 24, Immaculate Conception Church, Father Victor Hugo Andrade, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Ochiltree Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Maria Medina; three sons, Jesus Medina and his wife Penny of Perryton, Oscar Medina and Miguel Medina and wife Salome, all of Hobbs,

NM; two daughters, Irma Palma and her husband Jorge and Oralia Garcia and her husband Martin, all of Perryton; a brother, Juan Medina of Odessa; 17 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Tulia—Martha Day, 82, passed away Oct. 23. Mass was celebrated Oct. 29, Church of the Holy Spirit, Father Hector J. Madrigal, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery. Survivors include her husband, Curtis Ted Day; three children, Curtis Teddy Day Jr. of Amarillo, Martha Marie Mervicker and her husband Feron of Prosper and Mitch Glen Day and his wife Misty of Post; three brothers, Tino Gomez, Lee Torrez and Mario Gomez, all of El Paso; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Hereford—Julia “Ulli” Julia Grajeda, 87, passed away Oct. 24. Mass was celebrated Oct. 28, San Jose Church, Father Shane D. Wieck, pastor, presiding. Burial was in West Park Cemetery. Survivors include four daughters, Nancy Salazar and her husband Jorge, Lupita Campos and her husband Juan, Yoly Tena and her husband Javier and Mireya Baca and her husband Manuel, all of Hereford; three sons, Noel Grajeda and his wife Gloria and Hugo Grajeda, all of Hereford and Carlos Grajeda of Chihuahua, Mexico; four siblings, Rubén Caraveo, Rosa Elva Caraveo and Irma Caraveo, all of Mexico and Jesús Manuel Caraveo of California; 19 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Amarillo—Raymond H. Garcia Jr., 75, passed away Oct. 24. Mass was celebrated Oct. 31, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Father Taylor Elzner, pastor, presiding. Survivors include his wife, Dolores Garcia; a son, Raymond Castillo Garcia III and his wife Sabina; three daughters, Gloria Cabello and her husband Juan, Christina Castillo and JoAnn Castillo Garcia; a sister, Sallie Cortez; a brother, Domingo Garcia and his wife Annie; 20 grandchildren, Savannah, Vanessa, Lori, Efren, Desiree, Josh, Alyssa, Jessike, Jaylyn, Kendra, Kayla, Monique, Cheyenne, Jordan, Sierra, Paul, Kristal, Jordan, Liz and Jazmen; and ten great-grandchildren.

Amarillo—Gavin Martin Ortiz, 19, passed away Oct. 26. Mass was celebrated Nov. 3, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Father Lawrence John, JCL, rector, presiding. Interment was in Llano Cemetery. Survivors include his parents, Martin and Jeanna Ortiz; a brother, George Ortiz of Amarillo; his maternal grandmother, Connie Quin-

tero of Amarillo; his paternal grandmother, Margarita Ortiz of Dumas; an aunt, Cindy Quintero of Amarillo; and two uncles, Ernie Ortiz of Dumas and Eugene Ortiz of Colleyville.

Hereford—Catherine Cortez, 91, passed away Nov. 1. Mass was celebrated Nov. 7, St. Anthony’s Cemetery, Father Grant Spinhirne, pastor, presiding. Burial was in St. Anthony’s Cemetery. Survivors include six children, Dave Cortez of Flint, Julie Cortez of Hereford, Steve Cortez and his wife Margo of Amarillo, Vince Cortez and his wife Shelly of Austin, Lisa Lucero and her husband Jimmy of Canyon and Eric Cortez and wife Rhonda of Denver; a brother, Henry Drerup and his wife Julie of Sebastopol, Calif.; an aunt; 10 grandchildren, Matthew Cortez of Frisco, Jeremy Cortez and his wife Lyz of Quinlan, Sarah Cortez and Deron Lucero and his wife Melissa, all of Amarillo, Erin Cortez of Corinth, Sabrina Allbright and her husband Justin of Godley, Ariana Cortez of Brussels, Emma Cortez and Hope Cortez, both of Austin and August Connelly of Dallas; seven great-grandchildren, Faith and Elijah Cortez, both of Quinlan, Kingston Cortez of Corinth and Kennon Lucero and Cameron Gross, Connor Gross and Kyson Gross, all of Amarillo; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family members.

Amarillo—Raquel Lopez, 64, passed away Nov. 2. Mass was celebrated Nov. 6, Blessed Sacrament Church, Father César A. Gómez, pastor, presiding. Interment was in Llano Cemetery. Survivors include five children, Janeth Veronica Lopez, Gustavo Homar Lopez, Juan Carlos Lopez, Daniel Arturo Lopez and Brayan Efrain Lopez; four siblings, Maria de la Luz Lopez, Maria del Carmen Hidalgo, Rosa Maria Chavez and Carlos Lopez; and 10 grandchildren, Angela, Madeline, Carlos, Irwin, Jayden, Yaretzi, Giselle, Ady, Gianna and Mateo.

Amarillo—Jesus Manuel Villa Garcia, 55, passed away Nov. 3. Mass was celebrated Nov. 8, Christ the King Church, Sunray, Father Luis René López, pastor, presiding. Interment was in Brown Memorial Cemetery, Sunray. Survivors include a daughter, Samantha Zamora of Amarillo; a son, Jesus Villa Jr. and his wife Victoria of Sunray; six siblings, Victor Hugo Villa of Spearman, Ramon Horacio Villa, Olga Villa, Concepcion Trevizo and Francisco Villa Jr., all of Mexico and Yadira Acosta of Plainview; six grandchildren, Kayla, Liam, Alena, Juan,

Axel and Anita; and numerous other extended family members.

Wheeler—Natalia Marcella Barkley, 92, passed away Nov. 4. Graveside Services were conducted Nov. 10, St. Mary’s Cemetery, Groom, Father Arokiaraj “Raj” Malapady, pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Groom, presiding. Survivors include two sons, Keith Barkley and his wife Kathleen of Groom and Lee Barkley and his wife Bickye of Pampa; four daughters, Cheryl Turvaville of Wheeler, Patricia Russell of Kelly, La., Jodie Fitzgerald and her husband Chris of Denton and Carrie Gaines and her husband Phillip of Wheeler; a brother, Tommy Weller and his wife Diane of Claude; a sister, Anna Mize of St. Francisville, La.; 18 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Spearman—Juan Lopez, 67, passed away Nov. 6. Mass was celebrated Nov. 12, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Father Hrudaya Kondamudi, parochial administrator, presiding. Burial was in Hansford Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Angie Lopez; a daughter, Jennifer Torres and her husband Thomas of Amarillo; a son, Ashley Juan Lopez of Spearman, five brothers, Victor Lopez of Amarillo, Rick Lopez of Borger, Joe Cazarez of Snyder, David Cazarez of Washington and Leroy Cazarez of Wyoming; two sisters, Silvia Riveria of Borger and Lisa Cazarez of Lubbock; and a granddaughter, Linzey Torres.

Dumas—Imelda G. Maldonado, 76, passed away Nov. 7. Mass was celebrated Nov. 11, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Father Luis René López, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Dumas Cemetery. Survivors include her husband, Florencio Maldonado; six children, Jake, Linda, Martin, Angel, Ricardo and Pedro; a sister, Elvira; 14 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Hereford—Andres “Andy VCR” “Mighty Fine” Ontiveros Sr., 86, passed away Nov. 9. Mass was celebrated Nov. 13, San Jose Church, Father Shane D. Wieck, pastor, presiding. Burial was in St. Anthony’s Cemetery. Survivors include six children, Ramona Segovia and her husband Manuel Sr., Andres Ontiveros Jr. and his wife Celia, Ramiro Ontiveros and Miguel Ontiveros, Sr. and his wife Krystal, all of Amarillo, Amelia Van and her husband Jerry and Fernando Ontiveros and his wife Roxann, all of Hereford; three brothers; four sisters; 22 grandchildren; 42 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Please remember in prayer the clergy of the Diocese of Amarillo who died during the month of December:

Father John Pierce, Dec. 1, 1979

Monsignor Curtis T. Halfmann, Dec. 2, 2012

Deacon Ron Hein, Dec. 2, 2021

Deacon Armando Esparza, Dec. 5, 2020

Father Aedan Davis, S.A., Dec. 6, 1977

Father Paul Haefner, S.A., Dec. 7, 1992

Monsignor Antonio Gonzalez, Dec. 9, 2011

Deacon Leroy Behnke, Dec. 11, 2021

Deacon Art Stewart, Dec. 12, 1998

Father John J. Dillon, Dec. 14, 1970

Father Raymond Eisele, Dec. 15, 1982

Father Nathaniel Madden, S.A., Dec. 18, 1965

Father Norbert Kieferle, Dec. 20, 2015

Father Patrick Ryan, S.A.C., Dec. 21, 1981

Deacon Robert Gutierrez, Dec. 27, 2014

Father Andrew Quante, O.S.B., Dec. 30, 1971

Monsignor James Sonderman, Dec. 30, 2000

Monsignor Mario Stortz, Dec. 30, 2014

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Catholic

Let us pray for our government officials that God will guide them to defend Life, Marriage, Human Dignity and Religious Liberty.

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WE ARE CALLING ALL CATHOLICS IN OUR DIOCESE TO UNITE AROUND:

- Supporting our seminarians in their formation and education.
- Supporting our priests in continuing education and the advancement of their studies.
- Supporting Catholic Communications.
- Supporting the training and education of our Deacon Candidates in order to assist our priests and the ministries of our parishes.
- Faith Formation support for our parishes with the new changes in the conversion of RCIA to OCIA and the administration of the sacraments.
- Youth programs that enliven this generation in their Catholic Faith including the discernment of vocations to our young people.
- Supporting the diocesan effort in our prison systems to bring men back to faith and to introduce the Catholic Faith to those who have no faith at all.
- Catholic support in our hospitals to serve those who are ill as well as their families.
- Supporting family enrichment through marriage encounters and family program.
- Supporting our college students on campus through our Catholic Student Center

**PLEASE GIVE WITH LOVE TO HELP YOUR
PARISH, FUTURE PRIESTS AND THOSE
DISCERNING A CALL TO RELIGIOUS LIFE.
THANK YOU!**


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“¡RECONSTRUYE MI IGLESIA!”

CONVOCAMOS A TODOS LOS CATÓLICOS EN NUESTRA DIOCESIS A UNIRSE EN TORNO A ESTOS ESFUERZOS:

- El apoyo a nuestros seminaristas en su formación y educación.
- El apoyo a nuestros sacerdotes en su instrucción continua y el avance de sus estudios.
- El apoyo a las Comunicaciones Católicas.
- El apoyo a la capacitación e instrucción de nuestros candidatos al diaconado para ayudar a nuestros sacerdotes en nuestras parroquias.
- El apoyo a la Formación en la Fe en nuestras parroquias con los nuevos cambios en la conversión del RICA a la OICA y la administración de los sacramentos.
- Los programas juveniles que dan vigor a esta generación en su fe católica, incluso el discernimiento de vocaciones entre la juventud.
- El apoyo al esfuerzo Diocesano en los sistemas correccionales para que los hombres vuelvan a la fe y para presentar la Fe Católica a quienes no tienen ninguna fe.
- El apoyo católico en los hospitales para servir a los enfermos y a sus familiares.
- El apoyo a la estabilidad y el progreso familiar con el encuentro matrimonial y el programa familiar.
- El apoyo a nuestros estudiantes de colegio en campus con el Centro Estudiantil Católico.

**POR FAVOR DEN AMOROSAMENTE PARA AYUDAR A SU
PARROQUIA, A SUS SACERDOTES FUTUROS Y A QUIENES
DISCIERNEN SU VOCACIÓN A LA VIDA RELIGIOSA.
¡GRACIAS!**


CATÓLICOS UNIDOS