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THE

WEST TEXAS CATHOLIC

westtexasatholic.org



Volume 86, No. 2

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

February 15, 2026

Leading Off

Rite Of Election: Sunday, Feb. 22

Amarillo—The deadline is quickly approaching to submit names for the Sunday, May 17 Graduation Issue of *The West Texas Catholic*.

Parents of Catholic high school seniors are asked to contact their parish with their graduates' names this week. The list of Catholic high school graduates from diocesan parishes is due to the Office of Communications by **NOON** on Thursday, Feb. 26.

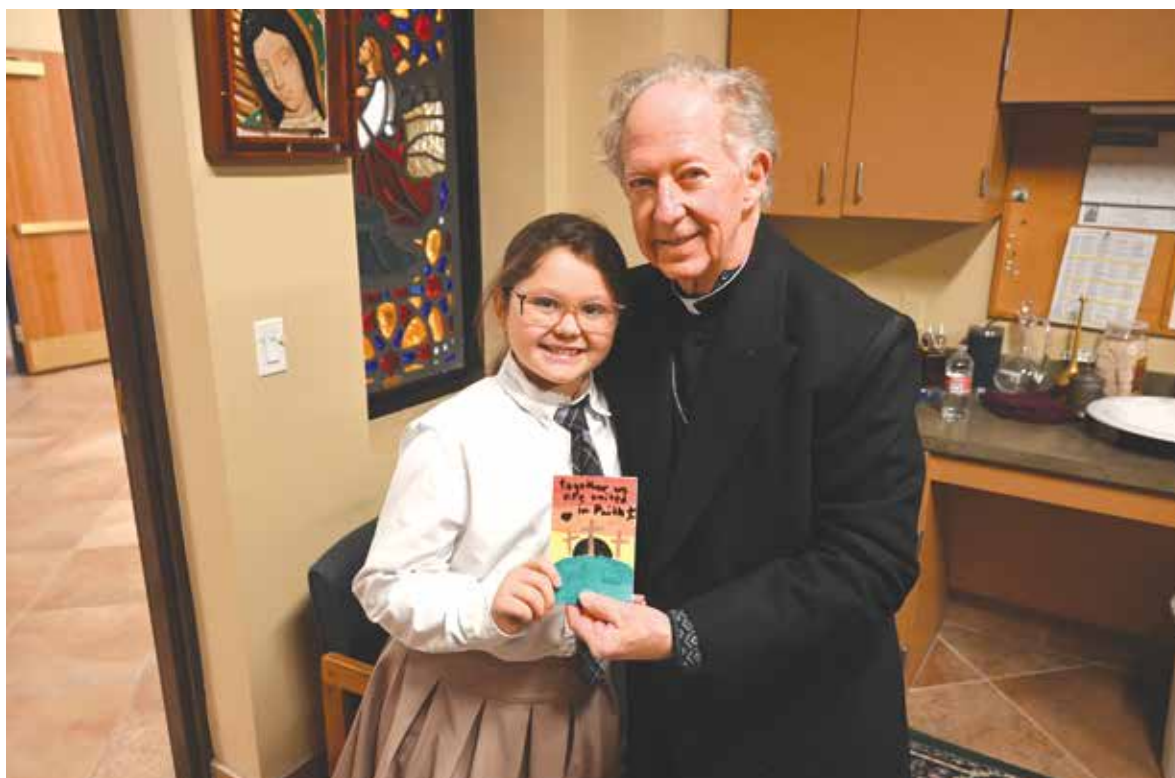
For more information regarding the 2026 Graduation Issue, please contact the diocesan Office of Communications at 806-414-1075, or via email, westtexasatholic@gmail.com.

Amarillo—The 68th annual German Sausage Dinner to benefit St. Francis of Assisi Church will be served Sunday, March 8 from 11:00am to 2:00pm, in the St. Francis Parish Hall, ten miles east of Amarillo off Highway 60 and one mile east of Tyson.

Adult meal plates are \$16.00 each and \$8.00 for children five to twelve. Children under five eat free. The meal will be dine-in and takeout, according to parish spokesperson Gerald Detten, and added there will be bulk prices for the dinner as well.

A Country Store will be open, with an assortment of homemade goods on sale. There will also be a raffle for a variety of prizes at 1:30pm. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 and will be sold during the dinner.

Parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Church invite everyone to join them at 9:00am for the Sunday Mass prior to the meal. Find out more about the dinner by calling Detten at 806-382-8813.



Fourth grade student Breeley Gonzalez, left, of St. Anthony of Padua School, Dalhart, presents a handmade greeting card to Bishop Patrick J. Zurek Jan. 27 after the Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church. Additional photos from Catholic School Week Masses can be found on page 6 in the front section of this issue of *The West Texas Catholic*. (WTC Photo)

Registration Continues For DCYC 2026

Amarillo—Registration continues for the annual Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC), taking place Friday, April 24 through Sunday, April 26 at the Amarillo Civic Center, 401 South Buchanan.

The theme of DCYC 2026 is *Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God (Isaiah 41:10)*.

Monday, Feb. 23 is the Early-bird registration deadline. Early-bird registration is \$55 per person and includes two meals, a t-shirt and gifts.

Regular registration is \$65 per person and must be postmarked by **Friday, April 3**. The fee includes two meals, but no t-shirt and gifts.

For those registering at the door, cost is \$75 per person, according to Diocesan Youth Director Oscar Guzman. The registration fee includes two meals.

Registration can be done at the parish-level and any additional costs depends on the cost of transportation, lodging and additional meals.

For those planning to go to Wonderland Park on Sunday, April 26, tickets are \$24 per person. Guzman said those planning to go to Wonderland Park are welcome to order for family as well, but that Wonderland Park is optional.

Scheduled to participate at

DCYC 2026 are:

- Bishop Patrick J. Zurek;
- Donovan Moses;
- Genesis Pirolo;
- Franciscan Sister of Christ the Light Sister Maria Irina Teiner; and,
- Brad Farmer.

Youth interested in attending DCYC 2026 are asked to contact their parish youth minister or priest for additional parish delegation details. For more information about DCYC 2026, please go online to amarillodiocese.org/dcyc-aka-youth-rally or contact Guzman at 806-383-2243, ext. 118.

Amarillo—The Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion is set for Sunday, Feb. 22 at 2:30pm at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1200 South Washington.

According to School Sister of Notre Dame Sister María Elena Ferrer, coordinator of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Amarillo, all participants in the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion should be at St. Mary's Cathedral by no later than 1:30pm to receive final instructions.

"In the life of each diocesan Church in the United States and in many other countries, the first Sunday of Lent is very special for catechumens and candidates," said Sister María Elena. "After a period of catechesis in the *Catechumenate* and having celebrated the liturgical rites of this period, catechumens, as well as candidates, will be ready to gather with the Bishop at the Cathedral to begin the period of the Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA) process called *Purification and Enlightenment*. This period of deep interior reflection before the celebration of the sacraments at the Easter Vigil takes place during the 40 days of Lent.

"The title of the combined rite is *Rite of Election of Catechumens and of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion*. This is necessary to maintain the distinction between the catechumens and the baptized candidates. Those who are baptized Catholic, or another Christian denomination are already members of the Christian community.

Please see "Rite of Election," p. 2

Cheers To Change



Amarillo—*Cheers to Change*, a fundraiser to benefit the Inter-Faith Hunger Project at Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle, is set for Friday, Feb. 20, beginning at 6:00pm in the Amarillo Club,

600 South Tyler, Ste. 3000.

The evening will include music, presentations and fellowship, according to Jeff Gulde, CCTXP executive director. **Black tie attire is requested.**

Individual tickets are \$125 per person, or \$250 per couple.

Sponsorships remain available for *Cheers to Change*. Sponsorship levels are:

- Top Shelf, at \$25,000;
- Meats, at \$10,000;
- Fruits, at \$5,000;
- Veggies, at \$2,500;
- Grains, at \$1,000; and,
- Dairy, at \$500.

For additional information or to sponsor *Cheers to Change*, please contact Yara Haddad, development director at Catholic Charities at 806-376-4571, ext. 250.

Rite of Election... from page 1

“The rite takes place at the Cathedral; however, each parish celebrates the *Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for the Calling to Continuing Conversion* at the parish church. Only the catechumens are presented to the parish community. Their catechists and sponsors give testimony about their readiness, after which they write their names in the **BOOK OF THE ELECT**. Candidates preparing for full communion and the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist may also be presented to the parish community. Since they are baptized their names have already been written in the Baptismal Registry and do not have to be entered in the Book of the Elect.

“Catechumens and their godparents, candidates and their sponsors, parents, OCIA catechists and pastors are cordially invited to this awe-inspiring celebration at St. Mary’s Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 22 at 2:30pm.”

Chrism Mass Tuesday, March 31

Amarillo—The annual Chrism Mass will take place Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00pm at St. Mary’s Cathedral, 1200 South Washington.

Bishop Patrick J. Zurek invites the Faithful to attend the Chrism Mass and to show their support for the priests of the Diocese of Amarillo.

“If you support your parish priest, we encourage you to join us for the Chrism Mass in a show of support for all of our priests,” said Bishop Zurek.

During the Chrism Mass, the Oil of the Catechumen, the Oil of the Sick and the Holy Chrism will be blessed. Priests of the diocese, who will concelebrate with Bishop Zurek, will renew their commitment to their ordained ministry and to the bishop. The Mass of Chrism Mass is considered a celebration of ordained priesthood.

Chrism is used in the administration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders, in the consecration of churches, chalices, patens, altars and altar-stones, and in the solemn blessing of bells and baptismal water. The head of the newly-baptized is anointed with chrism, the forehead of the person

confirmed, the head and hands of a bishop at his consecration and the hands of a priest at his ordination. So are the walls of churches, which are solemnly consecrated, anointed with the same holy oil and the parts of the sacred vessels used in the Mass which come in contact with the Sacred Species, as the paten and chalice.

If it be asked why chrism has been thus introduced into the functions of the church liturgy, a reason is found in its special fitness for this purpose by reason of its symbolical significance. For olive-oil, being of its own nature rich, diffusive, and abiding, is fitted to represent the copious outpouring of sacramental grace, while balsam, which gives forth most agreeable and fragrant odors, typifies the innate sweetness of Christian virtue. Oil also gives strength and suppleness to the limbs, while balsam preserves from corruption. Thus anointing with chrism aptly signifies that fullness of grace and spiritual strength by which we are enabled to resist the contagion of sin and produce the sweet flowers of virtue. “For we are the good odor of Christ unto God” (2 Corinthians 2:15).

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The West Texas Catholic welcomes your letters, articles, church bulletins and captured photos, preferably in a digital JPEG format. Photos taken by cellphone cameras will not be accepted for publication in *The West Texas Catholic*. Letters must be signed and include your mailing address and telephone number; however, only the letter writer’s name and city will be published. Email is the preferred method of receiving information and photos.

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Thanks for reading
*The West Texas
Catholic*

Editor's Note: Donovan Moss of Austin is one of the scheduled presenters for DCYC 2026, set for Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26 at the Amarillo Civic Center. *The West Texas Catholic* posed these questions to him as he prepares his presentation.

The West Texas Catholic: If asked to define Donovan Moses, how do you answer that question?

Donovan Moss: "I'm a songwriter/artist living in Austin, with my beautiful wife, Carissa, my three boys and a dog. We're a big outdoors family, so we love to explore hiking spots and go fishing, camping—all that good stuff. Music was the first avenue through which I came to know God my sophomore year, and since then, I've learned to use the gift that music is kind of as I would a compass. It doesn't matter where I find myself in life—I know that I can always find my way back to the Lord by singing to Him—whether I sing from the deepest valleys of despair or from the highest mountains of joy."

WTC: *How did you get involved with youth ministry and what keeps you continuing in this ministry?*

Moss: "I began leading worship when I moved to Minneapolis after high school to serve as a Missionary with NET Ministries. I was traveling to different churches and was playing a lot of music, and I was re-discovering—again—that music is not a scorecard. It was never about singing perfectly, or playing the fancy parts. It's the gift of being able to unite the Body of Christ around the call to Faith that Jesus extends toward us. I've found a mission in that alone—to share that music wherever I'm called to go. I've also found mission in writing music. I write every day, and it's such an opportunity for me to process things that I'm thinking and praying through in my life. It's hard to explain, but writing music feels like this big, profound writing session with the Holy Spirit. Sometimes the songs that get written are the union of Scripture and something I'm reading or reflecting on,



Donovan Moses

and sometimes a song idea just hits my brain in the middle of changing my son's diaper or in the middle of cooking dinner. And I love that. I love that music, my Faith and the everyday moments of life can co-exist like that."

WTC: *If you don't mind, could you share a bit of the message you hope to convey to youths at DCYC 2026 in April?*

Moss: "God has crafted a plan for you and you alone. You are wonderfully made in His eyes and you have a reason to live a life filled with hope—not for what you have done or what has happened to you, but simply because of who you are to Him and what has already been done for you on the Cross."

WTC: *What advice would you give to those youths preparing to graduate from high school in May as they begin the next chapter in their lives?*

Moss: "I'm sure you're reading that question and thinking 'what chapter?' I remember graduation being a time that was filled with not enough answers and more than enough emphasis on going to college, getting a job and storing up success for the future. Easy, right? Not exactly. I remember seeing

"Make goals to take care of your body, mind and soul, so that your cup is filled to then go out and serve those in need. The peace of God will meet you in the next chapter of your life if you allow it to."

—Donovan Moses

close friends leave and set out on their adventures and constantly anxious whether I've made the right decisions or not. Thankfully, God was in control and not me.

"The thing is, Jesus never commanded us to pick the right career or else we'd have no success—but He did command us to be virtuous servants. As a matter of fact, He actually equated greatness and success with servanthood and discerning the needs of those around us (*Matthew 20:26-28*). Everyone has a different definition of 'success,' and I think this is exactly where we need to begin as Christians, because leadership has a ceiling, but servanthood does not. Every team, organization, company, ministry, anything! Every place needs servants who are ready to do what everyone else is waiting for others to do—and to do it with love and humility.

"So be bold, be different. Find new friends who are striving for

holiness and something greater. Go strive for something great alongside them. Find a community that is striving for virtue on the weekends. Make goals to take care of your body, mind and soul, so that your cup is filled to then go out and serve those in need. The peace of God will meet you in the next chapter of your life if you allow it to."

WTC: *The final word in this conversation is yours, sir....*

Moss: "DCYC is going to be more than just another annual conference. It's going to be an opportunity to show up and allow the Lord to surprise you. He has a plan for your life and when the Church gathers in Faith and worship, He moves in our lives and hearts to stir up Faith and confidence to go out and be what the world needs you to be. It's gonna be an awesome weekend, y'all—I can't wait to see you there!"



**St. John the Evangelist
Catholic Church**
201 St. John's Road, Borger

69th Italian Meatballs and Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, March 22

Tickets: \$16.00 per person

Children 7 and under are free (dine in only)

Takeouts available

Dine In 11:00am-4:00pm
Takeouts 11:00am-5:00pm

For additional information, please call the parish office at 806-274-7064

Deacons Birthdays

Deacons of the Diocese of Amarillo celebrating birthdays during the month of February include:

Deacon Alfredo Alarcón

Feb. 1

Deacon Pablo Morales

Feb. 7

Deacon Todd Murray

Feb. 16

Deacon Terry Pevehouse

Feb. 20

ST MARY'S DAY
Parish Hall, St. Mary's Church
510 East Montgomery, Cleardenon

★ ★

BARBECUE

Sunday, April 12

11:30am to 1:00pm

ADULTS - \$20 CHILDREN - \$10
CHILDREN UNDER 12 - FREE

**Brisket, Ribs, Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw,
Homemade Bread and Desserts**

FAMILY FUN COUNTRY STORE
GAMES AND PRIZES SILENT AUCTION

Brisket and ribs available to purchase by the pound

For more details, please call Jacob Fangman at 806-206-5737.



Chuck Alexander, left, and Bob Hopkins, both of the Amarillo-based band *Insufficient Funds*, discuss the evening's setlist Feb. 7 during the annual fundraiser to benefit the Catholic Student Center at West Texas A&M University, Canyon, in the gym at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Amarillo. (WTC Photo)

Speed Dating Event Set

Amarillo—Details are still being finalized for a *Speed Dating Event for Catholics* Saturday, March 15, and on the diocesan website, March 28. Additional details will follow in the Sunday, March 15 issue of *The West Texas Catholic*; and on the diocesan website, amarillodiocese.org.

Dumas Spring Craft Show

Dumas—A Spring Craft Show at Sts. Peter and Paul Church is set for Saturday, March 21 from 11:00am to 4:00pm in the Pastoral Center at 915 South Maddox.

"We will have a large selection of vendors to shop with, a concession stand and door prizes throughout the day," said parishioner and event organizer Mary Swartz. "There is no admission fee and we encourage everyone to join us and look over a great selection of items."

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

Volunteers Needed

Amarillo—Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle needs volunteers in its InterFaith Hunger Project grocery store. Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays and Thursdays to check out clients, sack groceries and deliver them to their vehicles. Volunteers are also needed to help stock shelves. Find out more by calling 806-376-4571.

Bilingual Living Way Of The Cross

Amarillo—St. Laurence Church invites the public to participate in its 21st Bilingual Living Way of the Cross (*Via Crucis*), on Good Friday, April 3, beginning at 3:00pm, according to Father Haider Quintero, pastor.

Activities will begin at the back of the St. Laurence parish property at 2300 North Spring, followed by a procession from the parish to NE 18th Street, turning north on Hill Street, then east on NE 22nd Street before concluding at St. Laurence Church. Parishioners from St. Laurence will interpret the different roles.

"The Stations of the Cross are the journey of Christ to the Cross. We follow in His footsteps with each station and reflect on our own journey through life and the specific trials we have encountered."

The participation in this event will feed us spiritually," said Father Quintero. "The Living Stations of the Cross is a great production that takes lots of effort and rehearsal by so many of our parishioners to represent the last moments in the life of our Savior. It is not only a representation but also an inspiration that invites and moves us to pray by contemplating the Passion and the Sacrifice of Christ for our salvation. The parishioners of St. Laurence have been representing the Passion of the Lord through the Living Way of the Cross for 21 consecutive years. We encourage everyone in the Diocese of Amarillo to make plans to join us and participate."

For more information, call the parish office at St. Laurence Church, 806-383-2261.

"Joseph's Faith does not falter, he obeys quickly and to the letter."

—St. Josemaria Escriva

Invitation to our
Seder Meal

Thursday, March 26
6:00 pm

Tickets \$50
bdrc.org or 806-383-1811

Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center
2100 N Spring St., Amarillo

St. Ann's Church, Canyon
35th Annual Czech Sausage Dinner

Menu
Czech Sausage
Sauerkraut
Parsley Potatoes
Green Beans
Cobbler

Price
Adult: \$18.00
Child: \$10.00
(12 and under)

Dine-In and Drive-Through Available

Sunday, March 1
11:00am – 2:00pm

Parish Family Center
605 38th Street
Canyon

The event will include a 50/50 raffle drawing, religious articles and a country store with baked goods and kolaches!

New Orleans Night In Dumas

Dumas—The annual New Orleans Night, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #5061 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, takes place Saturday, April 18 at a new location this year, Hacienda Garcia Event Center, 839 North Dumas Ave. Activities begin at 6:00pm with

social hour, according to Council #5061 Grand Knight Miguel Nevarez, followed at 7:30 with a steak dinner with all the trimmings. Tickets are \$600 for a table of eight, which includes dinner, Calcutta and the dance. There will also be cash drawings, with first prize

\$2,000, second prize \$1,000 and third prize \$500. No one under the age of 21 will be admitted. For more information, please contact Nevarez at 806-236-0555; Coby Schacher at 806-570-3218; or Bob Brinkmann at 806-683-5738.

13th Umbarger Frühlingsfest May 9

Umbarger—The 13th Frühlingsfest, or Spring Festival at St. Mary's Church is set for Saturday, May 9, beginning at 6:00pm in the parish hall at 22830 Pondaseta Road. Tickets are \$150 per couple, which includes a Tenderloin steak dinner with all the fixings, a Reverse Drawing, a Calcutta, bever-

ages, desserts and a Live Auction. There will also be a dance, with music by *Insufficient Funds*. All winners will be determined in a reverse drawing, according to Father Alvin Tshuma, parochial administrator at St. Mary's Church. First prize is a \$3,000 Cashier's Check, second prize is a \$2,000

Cashier's Check and third prize is a \$1,000 Cashier's Check. Proceeds from the evening will benefit St. Mary's Church. No one under 21 will be admitted. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Brandon Finke at 806-681-6232 or, any parishioner at St. Mary's Church.



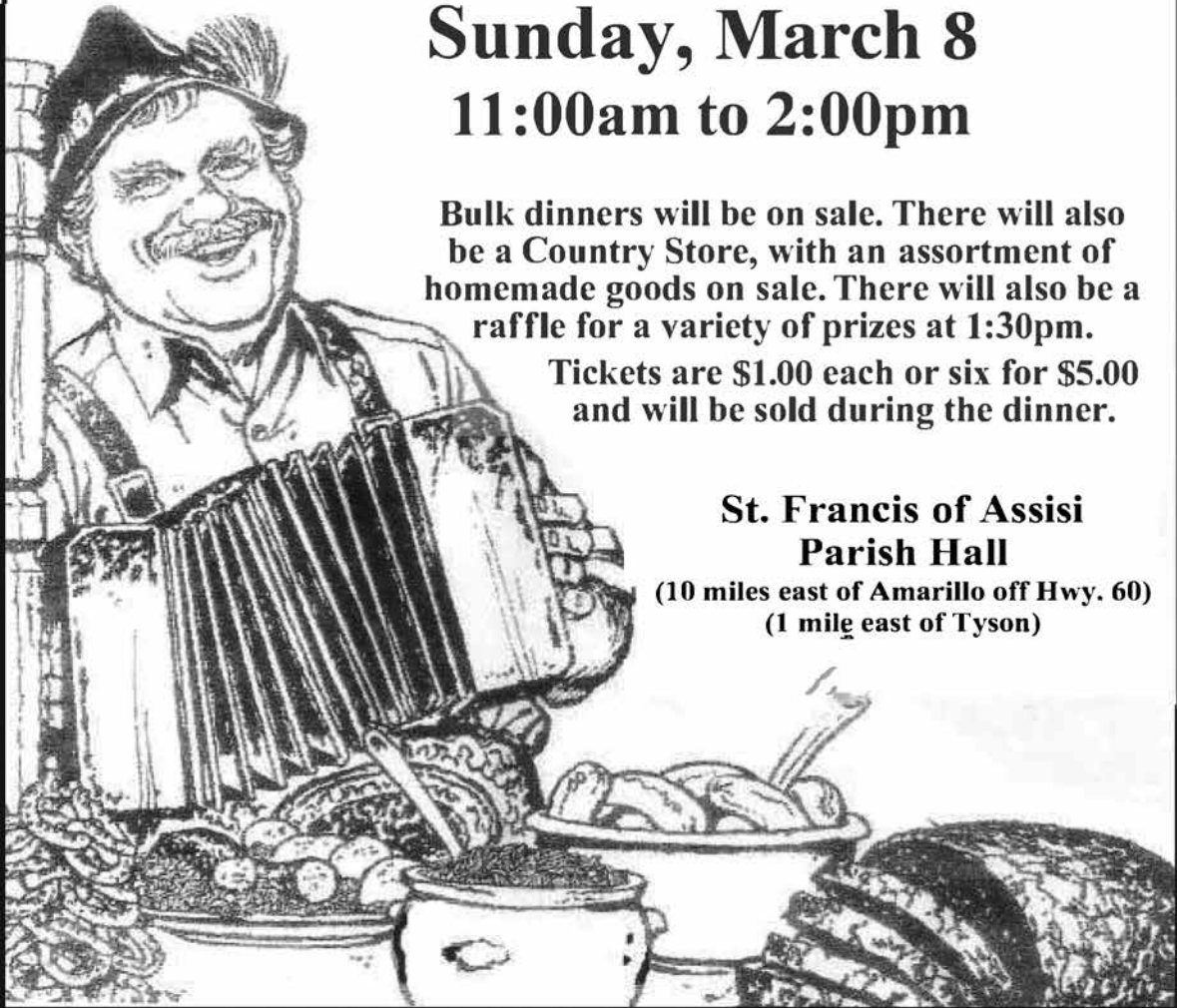
Randy Friemel, left, a 1983 graduate of St. Anthony's School, Hereford, was honored as the 2026 St. Anthony's School National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Distinguished Graduate Feb. 8 during a Mass at St. Anthony's Church. Pictured with Friemel is St. Anthony's School principal Linda Gonzalez. (WTC Photo)

St. Francis of Assisi Church
68th German
Sausage Dinner
Dine-In and Takeout

Sunday, March 8
11:00am to 2:00pm

Bulk dinners will be on sale. There will also be a Country Store, with an assortment of homemade goods on sale. There will also be a raffle for a variety of prizes at 1:30pm. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 and will be sold during the dinner.

St. Francis of Assisi
Parish Hall
(10 miles east of Amarillo off Hwy. 60)
(1 mile east of Tyson)



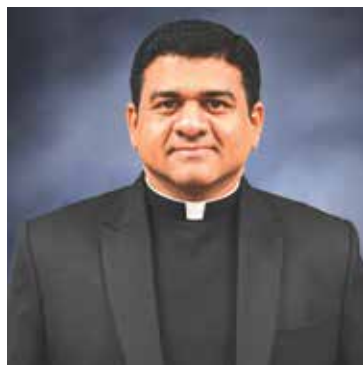
Catholic Schools:
An Investment in Country and Church

St. Anthony's School Annual
AUCTION
SUNDAY, MARCH 1
SCHOOL GYM, 120 W PARK AVE., HEREFORD, TX
1:00pm - 6:00pm
OVER 400 ITEMS!
Donations accepted at school office
Tickets Available From Any Student or at School Office
ENTER TO WIN \$25 each or 5 for \$100
Give this side to customer #
2025 Madjax E4 Lifted Golf Cart
• Black body, black seats
• LED lighting • 7" display
• GTW tires and wheels
• Eco lithium battery
• Lift kit • 2 yr bumper to bumper warranty
• 8 yr battery warranty.
• Sound bar
RETAIL VALUE \$9,995.00
Live Drawing at 5:00pm, March 1
St. Anthony's Gym
120 W Park Ave., Hereford, Tx
Scan to see action video of golf cart

Getting To Know...**Father Praveen Mopur William**

The West Texas Catholic: What are some of your hobbies, Father William?

Father Praveen Mopur William: “I am a sportsman. I play basketball and volleyball. I was on the university team. I enjoy reading books and listening to my favorite music. In India I always used to listen to American singer Don Moen’s music. I even met him when he came down to India, and there are gospel songs that I listen to, and I love Western music too. I also enjoy gardening.”



WTC: Your favorite Bible verse?

Father William: “I have two. One is my own motto that I have taken for my priesthood, *Matthew 5:14*, ‘You are the light of the world.’ The second is *Matthew 7:7*, ‘Ask and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find; Knock and the door will be opened to you.’

Whenever I went to God and asked, He answered. My very life is a testimony to that truth. When you seek Him, you will surely find Him. And whenever you knock, God is already on the other side, ready to open the door for you. My priestly motto is ‘You are the light of the world.’ My daily prayer is ‘Lord, let your light shine through me, so that others may see You.’”

WTC: Your favorite saint or saints, and why are they your favorites?

Father William: “My favorite saints are Mother Mary and St. Anthony of Padua. I come from a town where my church is named after St. Anthony of Padua. My entire family is so fond of St. Anthony of Padua and seek his intercession always. It’s from my early age that St. Anthony of Padua is in my mind and heart. When I was five years old and seriously ill, my parents entrusted me to St. Anthony of Padua in prayer, and through his intercession I was miraculously healed. From my childhood, I had a strong desire to go to Padua and God graciously fulfilled it through the intercession of St. Anthony.

“I come from Chennai in South India, where there is a deep and beautiful devotion to Mother Mary. This devotion is not limited to Catholics or even to Christians alone. People of every background—Christians, Hindus, Muslims, and those of other religions—come to Mother Mary with Faith and reverence. When they come, you can truly see the depth of their devotion and trust in her motherly care. There are many powerful witnesses there. People of other religions may not call her ‘Mother Mary,’ but they lovingly call her ‘Ammā,’ which means mother—the same word we use for our own mom. Yes, Mother Mary is my mother too. Seeing this deep love and reverence has strengthened my own devotion to Mary. Because of this, Mother Mary and St. Anthony of Padua have always held a special place in my heart and in my mind, and they are part of my daily prayers.”

WTC: Anything else you would like to add to this conversation?

Father William: “I am very happy to be here in the United States and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve in the Diocese of Amarillo, a diocese rich in Faith and blessed with 100 years of history. It is a special joy for me to come during its Centenary Year. I pray that I may always walk with God, be a true man of God and Faithfully carry out the responsibilities entrusted to me in the Diocese of Amarillo. I promise that I will do my very best in this ministry.”

The West Texas Catholic: Welcome to the Diocese of Amarillo, Father William. Tell us your vocation story...

Father Praveen Mopur William: “My vocation to the priesthood began in my childhood. When I was five years old, I became seriously ill. For almost a week, I was bedridden and unable to get up. My parents took me to a nearby town hospital, where the doctors told them that I would never walk again and would spend my life in a wheelchair. My mother was a great devotee of Mother Mary and St. Anthony of Padua. In her deep Faith, she entrusted me to them and prayed earnestly for their intercession. The doctors advised my parents to take me to a city hospital in Chennai, and they were preparing to do so. But before they could take me there, something extraordinary happened. I got up from the bed after a week, walked to my parents, and greeted them. They were astonished. Immediately, they took me back to the nearby hospital, where the doctor examined me and said, ‘He is perfectly fine. There is no need to take him to the city hospital.’

“From that moment on, my mother often reminded me of this great miracle. She would say, ‘It was God who touched you and healed you. Who you are today and what you are today is a gift from God.’ These words, spoken repeatedly throughout my childhood, deeply shaped my Faith and my relationship with God. As I grew, I became an altar server and a lector. I spent much of my time in the Church, joyfully helping the priests. From a young age, my parish priests inspired and nurtured my vocation to the priesthood—especially Father Anthonysamy, Father Cyriac, Father Dominic Savio, Father Francis Xavier and Father John Maria Joseph. Through their guidance and encouragement, I joined the apostolic school, and later, I entered the seminary.”

WTC: What is your ordination date, and where were you ordained?

Father William: “I was ordained to the priesthood on Aug. 28, 2013, for the Archdiocese of Madras and Mylapore, Chennai. I was ordained by Archbishop George Antonyamy at St. Thomas

National Cathedral Basilica, Santhome, Chennai, South India.”

WTC: I understand there were quite a few people in attendance for that Mass...

Father William: “My ordination was a deeply blessed celebration, with 350 priests, 200 religious sisters and nearly 30,000 people in attendance.”

WTC: I take it you weren’t the only priest ordained in that day.

Father William: “A total of seven candidates, including myself, were ordained on that day.”

WTC: What is the fondest memory that you have of your ordination day, Father William?

Father William: “The fondest memories of my ordination to the priesthood center on moments of deep surrender and grace. Prostration during the Litany of Saints marked a total offering of my life to God and a dying to my former self. The laying on of hands by the bishop and brother priests was the most solemn and joyful moment, welcoming me into the priestly fraternity. The anointing of my hands and the celebration of my first Mass revealed the sacred responsibility entrusted to me. Giving my first blessing to my parents and receiving the embraces of peace completed the experience with gratitude, joy and a sense of coming home.”

WTC: With seven of you being ordained, the laying of hands itself probably took an hour by itself.

Father William: “The ordination was a beautiful ceremony that lasted about two and a half hours, and the laying on of hands itself took nearly an hour.”

WTC: Tell us about your priestly formation and priestly ministry.

Father William: “I have been a priest for 12 years. I completed my philosophical studies at the Papal Seminary, Pune (West India) and my theological studies at Sacred Heart Seminary, Chennai (South India). In addition, I hold a Bachelor’s degree in History and a Bachelor’s degree in Education. I have also earned a Master’s degree in Philosophy, a Master of Social Work (MSW) with a specialization in Human Resource Management and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a specialization in Hu-

man Resource Management.

“As a priest of the Archdiocese of Madras–Mylapore, I have served in various pastoral and academic responsibilities. I worked as an associate pastor in two parishes, served as vice rector of the minor seminary and later served as pastor in two parishes. I have also taught at the college level as a lecturer in the Department of Social Work. Before coming to the Diocese of Amarillo, I served as rector of our regional Propaedeutic Seminary, while simultaneously teaching Philosophy as a professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.”

WTC: Tell us about your family. You talked about your mom’s strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin and to St. Anthony of Padua. Let’s talk about your parents.

Father William: “My father, Patrick, is deceased. My mother’s name is Theresa, and she lives in India with my brothers. I do not have any sisters, but I have two elder brothers, Louis Mathias and Richard Sebastian. Both are married and live in Chennai, South India. My brothers and sisters-in-laws have their own professions. My brother Louis Mathias works in a company as a computer designer, and his wife works as a school teacher. My brother Richard Sebastian works at a medical college as the Head of the Department of Physical Education, and his wife, who has a PhD in Pediatric Nursing, works as a professor in a nursing college. They have children, live happily together and take very good care of my mother.”

WTC: How long have you been in the United States, and had you been in the U.S. prior to coming to the Diocese of Amarillo?

Father William: “This is my first time in the United States. I arrived on Dec. 20, 2025, and I am very happy to be here. Although this is my first visit, I feel very comfortable, and I truly love the culture and the people. I am grateful to have met so many wonderful people already. Since arriving, I have concelebrated and celebrated Masses at St. Mary’s Cathedral, and I have also celebrated Mass at St. Martin de Porres Church and St. Hyacinth Church.”

Please pray for rain!

Steward Saints

St. Frances of Rome
1384-1440
Religious
Feast Day: March 9
Optional Memorial

Our stewardship is not static, but changes with our gifts and situation. That was the experience of St. Frances of Rome, too.

Married at a very early age, she

and her sister-in-law spent their time and money caring for the needy in their neighborhood as well as caring for their families.

When the plague claimed the lives of two of her children, St. Frances opened a section of her home as a hospital. Then when her husband died after 40 years of marriage, she entered the religious

foundation she had organized some years earlier, the Oblates of Mary, and eventually became its superior.

Wife, mother, religious sister— St. Frances of Rome was a good steward in each of the vocations to which she was called.

“God had not chosen her to be holy merely for her own advantage,” wrote her biographer.

“Rather, the gifts He conferred on her were to be for the spiritual and physical advantage of her neighbor.” We pray today that, like St. Frances of Rome, we may be steadfast in God’s service, seeking to follow Him Faithfully at every stage of our lives.

Steward Saints, from the book Steward Saints for Every Day,

written by Sharon Hueckel ©1999 the National Catholic Stewardship Council.



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

Ordination Anniversaries

Permanent Deacons of the Diocese of Amarillo observing their ordination anniversaries in the month of February include:

Deacon Terry Pevehouse
Feb. 22, 1981

Deacon Pete Valdez
Feb. 22, 1981

Priests Birthdays

Priests of the Diocese of Amarillo observing their birthdays in the month of March include:

Father Haider Quintero
March 25

Father Nicholas Gerber
March 31

United Catholics Appeal 2025-26

City	Parish	Quota	Pledged Amount By Parishioners	Amount Paid By Parishioners
Amarillo	St. Laurence	45,038	41,283	29,037
Amarillo	Our Lady of Vietnam	15,709	8,640	8,640
Amarillo	Blessed Sacrament	29,293	26,147	18,884
Amarillo	Our Lady of Guadalupe	34,673	28,684	21,461
Amarillo	St. Francis of Assisi	18,262	21,622	18,731
Amarillo	St. Hyacinth	38,659	42,695	36,654
Amarillo	St. Martin de Porres	15,360	7,627	6,877
Amarillo	St. Joseph's	53,696	63,620	42,358
Amarillo	St. Mary's Cathedral	144,926	129,665	103,226
Amarillo	St. Thomas the Apostle	192,772	240,437	193,656
Booker	St. Peter's	9,040	6,759	5,394
Borger	St. John the Evangelist	39,689	35,306	30,333
Bovina	St. Ann's	10,444	7,035	6,310
Cactus	Our Lady of Guadalupe	14,808	16,290	13,464
Canadian	Sacred Heart	13,012	8,250	7,600
Canyon	St. Ann's	109,588	107,624	86,183
Childress	Holy Angels	8,619	7,051	6,126
Clarendon	St. Mary's	2,275	2,453	2,208
Dalhart	St. Anthony of Padua	56,634	62,321	56,541
Dimmitt	Immaculate Conception	15,252	11,082	7,747
Dumas	Sts. Peter and Paul	59,645	43,497	35,069
Friona	St. Teresa of Jesus	12,152	8,474	6,979
Groom	Immaculate Heart of Mary	21,191	21,601	19,542
Gruver	Cristo Redentor	5,542	2,597	2,597
Happy	Holy Name of Jesus	1,533	2,140	1,340
Hart	St. John Nepomucene	7,563	6,153	4,947
Hereford	St. Anthony's	62,860	44,064	40,054
Hereford	San Jose	47,376	33,972	28,127
Kress	St. Paul the Apostle	2,466	2,475	1,739
Memphis	Sacred Heart	3,228	2,234	2,108
Nazareth	Holy Family	51,667	47,774	43,767
Pampa	St. Vincent de Paul	43,274	40,533	30,902
Panhandle	St. Theresa's	12,373	16,055	15,505
Perryton	Immaculate Conception	36,744	31,934	25,803
Quitaque	San Juan Diego	1,414	2,764	2,764
Shamrock	St. Patrick's	5,900	5,724	5,414
Silverton	Our Lady of Loreto	3,640	3,765	1,510
Spearman	Sacred Heart of Jesus	27,109	13,261	12,841
Stinnett	St. Ann's	4,395	3,704	2,379
Stratford	St. Joseph's	10,237	11,005	9,278
Sunray	Christ the King	3,778	5,310	3,940
Texline	St. Mary's	2,596	4,200	3,600
Tulia	Church of the Holy Spirit	15,476	16,615	13,241
Turkey	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	1,207	1,715	1,715
Umbarger	St. Mary's	15,794	14,146	13,666
Vega	Immaculate Conception	21,488	22,900	22,393
Wellington	Our Mother of Mercy	4,521	4,210	3,185
Wheeler	St. Mary's	5,736	3,308	2,683
White Deer	Sacred Heart	10,242	8,080	8,080
		1,368,896	1,298,801	1,066,598



Consecrated Women representing four of the religious congregations in the Diocese of Amarillo took part in Evening Prayer and a dinner Feb. 1 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Amarillo. (WTC Photo)

DENIM and Diamonds

Friday April 17 | 6:30pm-11:00pm
\$75 PER TICKET
Includes an opportunity to win a \$5,000 Visa Gift Card!

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1200 S. Washington | Amarillo

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IS NOW
OPEN**



FEAR NOT HOPE
ISAIAH 41:10
DCYC 2026 AMARILLO CIVIC CENTER
GRADES 7-12
APRIL 24-26



Donovan Moses is a singer/songwriter and worship leader in Austin, TX.



Genesis Pirolo is a motivated, high-energy speaker that speaks from the heart.



Most Reverend Patrick J. Zurek is the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo



Sister Maria Irina Teiner A native Austrian who now resides with the 14 American sisters in Panhandle, Texas



Brad Farmer is a nationally known evangelist with over 25 years experience at conferences, retreats and parish events

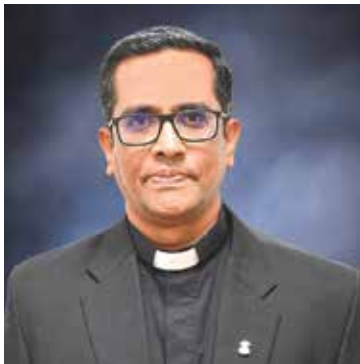
#DCYCAMARILLO
AMARILLODIOCESE.ORG/DCYC-AMARILLO

Conozcan al Padre Vimal Raj Samineedi Amal

The West Texas Catholic: Padre Vimal Raj Samineedi Amal, ¿Qué pasatiempos tiene?

Padre Vimal Raj Samineedi Amal: “Me gusta la jardinería y en especial cultivar plantas que florecen. Además de eso me gusta jugar al pimpón. No juego muchos juegos, pero el pimpón es uno que me gusta”.

WTC: ¿Cuál es su verso favorito en la Biblia y por qué lo es?



Padre Samineedi: “Es Efesios 4:1: ‘muéstrense dignos de la vocación que han recibido’. Ese fue el lema que escogí en el día de mi ordenación. Es un llamado que cada día me recuerda que escogí esta vida y que debo vivir con dignidad ese llamado al sacerdocio. Al surgir dificultades o retos, este verso me alienta a ser firme y a enfocar me de todo corazón en lo que he escogido”.

WTC: ¿Quién es su santo favorito?

Padre Samineedi: “Mi santo favorito es San Francisco de Asís. Desde mi niñez escuché historias de él—cómo creció queriendo ser soldado, su conversión, y cómo llegó a ser un gran santo. Lo que más me impresionó fue ver cómo la gente ve a Dios en él, no por medio de cosas extraordinarias, sino en su forma sencilla de vivir. Hay un relato en el que San Francisco dijo a uno de sus hermanos, ‘vamos a predicar’. El hermano se entusiasmó creyendo que iban a predicar desde un púlpito. Pero pasaron el día caminando por el pueblo y regresaron. El hermano le dijo, ‘Me dijo que íbamos a predicar, pero no hizo nada’. San Francisco respondió, ‘Fuimos predicando con nuestras acciones y nuestro comportamiento’”.

“Esa anécdota me ayuda a ver que en mi propia vida no sólo predico en la Iglesia. Nuestra forma de vivir debe hacerse nuestro predicar. La gente debe poder ver por nuestro modo de vivir, que somos diferentes—que somos personas centradas en Dios”.

WTC: La última palabra en esta conversación es suya, Padre Samineedi.

Padre Samineedi: “En todo mi ministerio en India del Noreste—en comunidades tribales—y después en mi ministerio en una escuela me brindaron experiencias muy variadas y enriquecedoras para tratar a la gente. Especialmente en Meghalaya, que sigue una cultura matrilineal—es el único estado con ese sistema—fue algo nuevo para mí. Yo provengo de una cultura diferente y en Meghalaya las mujeres son líderes en la vida pública. Ellas hablan mientras los hombres por lo general se mantienen al fondo apoyando y laborando. Con el paso del tiempo aprendí a valorar eso y a entender lo fuerte que es su Fe”.

“Mi vocación también se fortaleció durante esos años de estudio y ministerio. Cuando vine a los Estados Unidos de visita en 2017 y visité varias parroquias, me percaté de cómo la Iglesia funciona aquí y cómo responde la gente. Era muy diferente a mi experiencia en India. Esa experiencia despertó en mí un deseo de servir también aquí, de vivir la experiencia de esta vida y este ministerio y de ofrecerme a servir a la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos.”

El West Texas Catholic: Padre Vimal Raj Samineedi Amal, bienvenido a la Diócesis de Amarillo. Empecemos nuestra conversación con la historia de su vocación; cada historia que he escuchado ha sido interesante. Favor de compartir la suya...

Padre Vimal Raj Samineedi Amal: “La historia de mi vocación empezó cuando yo tenía diez años. En ese tiempo todos mis compañeros de clase y yo teníamos la oportunidad de servir en la iglesia. En mi villa había una ordenación cada año. Como monaguillo en esas ceremonias de ordenación, yo anhelaba poder algún día ocupar ese lugar y ser ordenado sacerdote, así que desde mi niñez decidí hacerme sacerdote. Fui creciendo y después de mis estudios iniciales, ingresé al seminario con la Congregación de Salvatorianos. En ese entonces, yo no sabía mucho acerca de la congregación. Solamente conocía a los sacerdotes Salecianos que hay en mi villa y a los sacerdotes en mi diócesis. Pero había un sacerdote de mi villa, el Padre Selvaraj Malavarupu que pertenecía a la Sociedad del Divino Salvador, conocidos como Salvatorianos. Él me invitó a ingresar a la congregación, lo acompañé a Bangalore y me uní a los Salvatorianos en el año de 1997.

“Esa fue la primera vez que salí de mi pueblo natal para vivir en otro estado. Fue una lucha, pero pude superarla. Después de completar mi noviciado, nos pidieron ir al Noreste de India en donde los misioneros Salvatorianos habían sido fundadores. Llegaron en 1980 como los primeros Misioneros Católicos en la región. Estábamos entusiasmados, pero al mismo tiempo había temor. A menudo oíamos en los medios acerca de movimientos secretos y disturbios en esa área. Sin embargo fui con entusiasmo y encontré una experiencia profunda y gratificante de mi vocación al servir entre los problemas del Noreste de la India”.

“En el año 2000 inicié mis estudios de filosofía y en seguida estudié teología. Después de mi ordenación, continué mi ministerio en el Noreste de la India. Después de unos tres años, regresé a Bangalore continué mi ministerio en Meghalaya, en la Diócesis de Shillong, que es parte del Noreste de la India”.

“Algo que me hizo crecer en mi camino de vocación fueron las pruebas que afronté durante mi formación. A veces la gente me decía, ‘Tú eres el único hijo varón y debes hacerte cargo de tus padres al avanzar su edad’. Hubo además malentendidos con compañeros y entre la comunidad. En un momento difícil, llamé a mi padre y le dije mis problemas: que tenía conflictos y un dilema. Mi padre dijo, ‘el día que te fuiste para ingresar al seminario me disgusté porque eres mi único hijo varón. Pero esto es lo que querías ser y lo decidiste desde tu niñez, así que diste ese paso entonces—no des paso hacia atrás’. Esas palabras se hicieron la fuerza que me incitaba a seguir mi vocación religiosa. Después de completar mis estudios iniciales de filosofía y teología, fui ordenado el 15 de enero de 2009”.

WTC: Llévenos al día de su ordenación. ¿Qué tan emocionado estaba?

Padre Samineedi: “No puedo expresar por completo cómo me sentí ese día. Todas las memorias volvieron a toda prisa—mis días como monaguillo sirviendo en las ceremonias de ordenación, ver a los obispos ordenar a los nuevos sacerdotes. Y de pronto yo mismo me encuentro en esas condiciones; fue un evento inolvidable”.

Porra al Cambio

Amarillo—El evento *Cheers to Change (Porra al Cambio)*, a beneficio del proyecto InterFaith Hunger Project de la agencia Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle (CCTXP), será el viernes, 20 de febrero a las 6:00pm en el Amarillo Club, calle Tyler 600 Sur, Suite 3000.

Habrà música, presentaciones y convivencia, informa Jeff Gulde, director ejecutivo de CCTXP. Favor de vestir de corbata Negra.

Los boletos individuales cuestan

Corredores y Caminantes Vengan a Shamrock

Shamrock—Los Caballeros de Colón del Consejo #12493 de las Iglesias de Saint Patrick en Shamrock; Sagrado Corazón en Canadian; Saint Mary en Wheeler; y Our Mother of Mercy en Wellington, tendrán Carrera y Caminata de 5 kilómetros el sábado, 14 de marzo como parte de la 79ª Celebración Anual de San Patricio.

El registro empieza a las

WTC: Espero que algunos jóvenes que estuvieron presentes en su ordenación se estén ordenando ahora o hayan sido ordenados y que muchos más en el futuro recuerden que estuvieron allí en ese 15 de enero.

Padre Samineedi: “Sí. Desafortunadamente, yo soy el último de mi parroquia que ha sido ordenado desde entonces, pero ya habrá otra ordenación este año”.

WTC: Háblenos de su familia. Dijo que usted es el único hijo varón. Díganos de sus hermanas.

Padre Samineedi: “Tengo dos hermanas. La mayor, Annita Rosalyn, vive en Arkansas, y mi otra hermana, Rexi Samineedi, vive en Bangalore, Karnataka.”

WTC: ¿A qué se dedican?

Padre Samineedi: “Las dos trabajan en Informática”

WTC: Usted llegó a la Diócesis de Amarillo el pasado mayo después de visitar a su hermana en Arkansas. ¿Cuál es su impresión de la diócesis?

Padre Samineedi: “Tengo buena impresión de la diócesis. Esta no es la primera vez que vengo a los Estados Unidos, ya que vine de visita en 2017 y pasé un mes de vacaciones con mi hermana. Ha sido excitante estar aquí y estoy agradecido por la experiencia”.

\$125, o \$250 por pareja.

Se puede patrocinar el evento *Cheers to Change* a varios niveles:

- Anaquel Superior, \$25,000;
- Carnes, \$10,000;
- Frutas, \$5,000;
- Verduras, \$2,500;
- Grano, \$1,000; y,
- Lácteos, \$500.

Para más detalles o patrocinio del evento, favor de llamar a Yara Haddad, dirigente de desarrollo de CCTXP, 806-376-4571, ext. 250, o por email a yhaddad@cctxp.org.

7:30am bajo el tanque de agua en la calle Main al sur del centro de Shamrock, cerca de la maderería Bartlett's Lumber and Hardware. La carrera empieza a las 8:15am, también al sur en la calle Main.

El registro cuesta \$30 por persona y los participantes van a recibir una camiseta. Para más detalles, favor de llamar a Roberto Flores, 806-255-3191.

Misa Crismal el Martes, 31 de Marzo

Amarillo—La Misa Crismal Anual será el martes, 31 de marzo a las 7:00pm en la Catedral de Santa María, calle Washington 1200 Sur.

El Obispo Patrick J. Zurek invita a los feligreses a asistir a la Misa Crismal y a mostrar su apoyo a los sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Amarillo.

“Si usted apoya a su párroco, lo animamos a que nos acompañe en la Misa Crismal como muestra de apoyo a todos los sacerdotes”, dijo el Obispo Zurek.

Durante la Misa Crismal se bendecirán el Óleo de los Catecúmenos, el Óleo de los Enfermos y el Santo Crisma. Los sacerdotes de la diócesis que van a concelebrar con el Obispo Zurek van a renovar su compromiso al ministerio de su ordenación y al obispo. La Misa Crismal se considera una celebración del orden sacerdotal.

El Crisma se usa al conferir los Sacramentos del Bautismo, Confirmación y Santos Órdenes; en la consagración de templos, cálices, patenas, altares y piedras de altar y en la bendición solemne de campanas y aguas bautismales. Se unge con Crisma la cabeza del recién bautizado, la frente del recién confirmado, la cabeza y las manos de un obispo en su consagración y las manos de un sacerdote en su ordenación. Las paredes de las iglesias se ungen en consagración solemne y con

el mismo óleo se ungen los vasos sagrados como el copón, la patena y el cáliz que se usan en la Misa y que hacen contacto con las Sagradas Especies Eucarísticas.

Cabe preguntar por qué se ha introducido así el Crisma en las funciones litúrgicas de la Iglesia. Su capacidad especial para tal fin debido a su significado simbólico, es una buena razón. El aceite de oliva que por naturaleza es rico, difusivo y permanente, aptamente representa el abundante derrame de gracia sacramental, en tanto que el bálsamo que emana muy agradables y fragantes aromas simboliza la dulzura de la virtud cristiana. El óleo además da fuerza y flexibilidad a las extremidades, mientras que el bálsamo previene la corrupción. Así pues la unción con crisma propiamente simboliza la plenitud de la gracia y fuerza espiritual que nos habilita a resistir el contagio del pecado y producir dulces flores de virtud. Porque “somos la fragancia que sube del sacrificio hacia Dios”. (2 Corintios 2:15).

Para quienes no puedan asistir a la Misa Crismal el 31 de marzo, la Misa se transmitirá en vivo en el sitio web de la Catedral Santa María, stmarysamarillo.com o la podrán escuchar en vivo en la Red de Radio Guadalupe: 94.5FM en el área de Amarillo y Canyon; 1010AM por toda la Diócesis de Amarillo y por 105.5FM en el área de Nazareth.

Anunciamos Sus Comidas de Cuaresma y Pescado Frito

Amarillo—Las parroquias que van a tener Comidas de Cuaresma y Pescado Frito pueden anunciarlas en la edición del 15 de marzo.

Envíen esa información por

email lo más pronto posible a westtexascatholic@gmail.com.

Para indagar detalles, favor de llamar a la Oficina Diocesana de Comunicaciones, 806-414-1075.



Anuncio Oficial

El Obispo Patrick J. Zurek ha hecho estos nombramientos efectivos a partir del lunes, 16 de febrero de 2026:

REV. MAURICIO VALADEZ GALLARDO - Vicario Parroquial de la Iglesia de St. Thomas the Apostle en Amarillo.

REV. VIMAL RAJ SAMINEEDI AMAL - Vicario Parroquial de la Iglesia de San José y su Misión en Hereford.

REV. PRAVEEN MOPUR WILLIAM - Vicario Parroquial de la Iglesia de San Lorenzo en Amarillo.

A partir del lunes, 16 de febrero de 2026, el Obispo Zurek nombró a estos hombres al servicio diaconal:
DIÁCONO GABRIEL BERMÚDEZ en la Iglesia San Jacinto en Amarillo.

DIÁCONO JESÚS CHACÓN en la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Amarillo.

DIÁCONO JESÚS MARTINEZ en la Iglesia de San José en Hereford.

DIÁCONO RODOLFO MUÑOZ en la Iglesia de San Vicente de Paúl en Pampa.

DIÁCONO TODD MURRAY en la Iglesia de San José en Hereford.

DIÁCONO DWAYNE RICKWARTZ en la Iglesia San Jacinto en Amarillo.

DIÁCONO KEVIN RICKWARTZ en la Iglesia Saint Ann en Canyon.

DIÁCONO MARTIN RUIZ en la Iglesia de San José en Hereford.

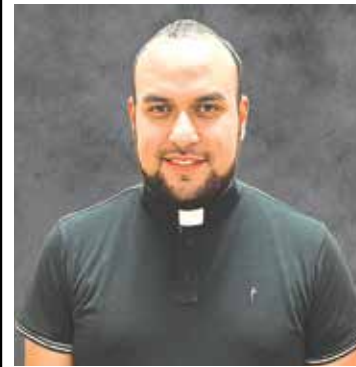
Por Orden del Obispo Padre Lawrence John, JCL
Vicario General
Diócesis de Amarillo

Conozcamos al Padre

Mauricio Valadez

The West Texas Catholic: Todos tenemos una historia de vocación, Padre Valadez. Por favor comparta la suya con nosotros.

Padre Mauricio Valadez: “Para empezar, yo provengo de una familia muy católica. En Los Altos de Jalisco la gente es muy acercada a la iglesia. Mi papá trabajaba en un seminario allá en mi pueblo, yo lo acompañaba y lo vi trabajar en el seminario. Me impresionó la actitud que tenían los seminaristas con todas las personas. Ahí fui viendo que me gustaba lo que hacían ellos porque eran muy atentos y muy serviciales con todos”.



“Al salir de la preparatoria, tuve que tomar la decisión si quería seguir una carrera profesional o quería entrar al seminario. Primeramente iba a estudiar ingeniería industrial en México, pero después se me presentó la oportunidad de entrar al seminario en la Diócesis de San Juan de los Lagos. Entré al preseminario en Arandas, Jalisco. Me aceptaron y allí empezó mi vocación”.

“Empecé a estudiar en la Diócesis de San Juan. Estudié curso introductorio y después estudié primero y segundo de Filosofía en San Juan de Los Lagos. En segundo de Filosofía fue cuando tomé la decisión de cambiarme de seminario para la Diócesis de Amarillo. Al cambiar de seminario para la Diócesis de Amarillo, empecé a estudiar en el Seminario en la Ciudad de México, el Seminario Hispano de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Allí estudié lo que me faltaba de formación: estudié un año y medio de Filosofía, después un año de Teología. De allí me vine a los Estados Unidos a estudiar inglés por un año en el Seminario de la Asunción en San Antonio. Después regresé a México para terminar mis estudios: estudié tres años más de Teología y cuando completé la formación teológica, regresé a los Estados Unidos, ya como diácono”.

WTC: Si no hubiera seguido la vocación sacerdotal, ¿qué cree que habría hecho con su vida?

Padre Valadez: Si ese no hubiera sido el camino, hubiera estudiado la carrera de Ingeniería Industrial, también me gusta el Diseño de Interiores. Ese sería el trabajo que hubiera decidido hacer. Tal vez hubiera tenido familia, ya que la familia es también la base del crecimiento personal y el matrimonio es otro sacramento importante. Eso es lo que quizás hubiera hecho si el sacerdocio no hubiera sido mi vocación.

WTC: ¿Qué espera obtener de su sacerdocio y tiene algún objetivo o aspiración al comenzar su sacerdocio?

Padre Valadez: Me gustaría sobre todo utilizar lo que yo he aprendido, que es evangelizar a las personas y estar con las personas. Una de las cosas más importantes cuando eres sacerdote, se supone siempre, hablar a las personas de la palabra de Dios, pero también acompañar a las personas. Creo que si no acompañas a las personas, eso no habla muy bien de ti. Tienes que ser un sacerdote que los acompañe, siempre y cuando ellos estén también dispuestos a ser acompañados. Considero que yo soy una persona que me gusta estar con las personas, que me gusta evangelizar con la palabra de Dios y que me gusta también dar ejemplo de lo que hablo. Eso es lo que aspiro hacer como sacerdote, si Dios quiere.

La Oficina de la Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas en la Diócesis de Amarillo

Para expresar sospechas, indagar, o reportar abuso sexual respecto a Personal de la Iglesia, inclusive el Clero, Religiosos(as), Empleados y Voluntarios de cualquier Institución Católica, diríjase a:

Sharyn Delgado

Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas
719 South Austin
Amarillo, TX 79106

Tel: 806-671-4830

FAX: 806-373-4662

Email: skdelgado@aol.com

Jamaica Calendar

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

TODAY (SUNDAY)

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

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

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

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

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Borger—Italian Meatballs and Spaghetti Dinner, Parish Hall, St. John the Evangelist Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Clarendon—St. Mary's Barbecue Day, Parish Hall, St. Mary's Church

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Dumas—New Orleans Night fundraiser to benefit Knights of Columbus Council #5061, Hacienda Garcia Event Center

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Dumas—Cinco de Mayo Celebration/Parish Festival to benefit Sts. Peter and Paul Church, McDade Park

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Amarillo—Parish Fiesta, St. Joseph's Church

Twenty Something By Christina Capecchi

Two Survivors, One Love Story

Zach Zarembinski was 18 when he suffered a massive brain bleed during a high-school football game, was rushed to Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minn., and placed in a coma. Nine days later, 16-year-old Isabelle Richard arrived at the adjacent children's hospital on the same campus after a near-fatal car crash left her in a coma.

This year they will be married.

Somehow God wove their survival stories into one beautiful love story. Zach and Isabelle, both devout Christians, will be celebrating their romance this Valentine's Day at their favorite Italian restaurant as they continue to plan their September wedding. "God orchestrated this in his perfect timing," says Isabelle, now 23, a Hy-Vee employee from Lakeville, Minn. "It's crazy what God can do!"

Looking back, the couple can trace the many ways God nudged them together. Zach learned about Isabelle when her mom came to the press conference announcing his release from the hospital. After nine days in a coma, his discharge gave her hope.

Their moms connected on Facebook. When Isabelle's mother shared the news that, after two and a half months, her daughter was finally out of a coma, Zach felt compelled to leave an encouraging comment online—and to come meet her in her hospital room. A photo was snapped of the two teens—Isabelle in her hospital bed, Zach crouching behind her, both smiling brightly. It was February of 2019.

In the months that followed, neither faced an easy road to recovery. Both leaned on their Faith. Zach's spiritual life had been cultivated by many Catholic influences. He was in his fifth year at Hill-Murray School in Maplewood, Minn., a respected Catholic School where a Benedictine nun served as chaplain of his football team.

Sister Linda Soler, OSB, was "a steady presence for Zach," he said, praying for him often and striking up regular conversations when he visited her office in campus ministry. Meanwhile, Rebecca Fandrich, a theology teacher, opened his eyes

to the power of the Holy Spirit. "I learned how to live with a deeper understanding of the world beyond the five senses," Zach said.

He worked to lose weight, become a runner and advance his career. Isabelle relearned how to walk, talk and drive—all while completing high school. Five and a half years after the two had first met in Isabelle's hospital room, she received the final all-clear from her neurosurgeon. When her mom, Esther, shared the news on Facebook, Zach left another encouraging comment. Esther responded and suggested the two families go out for dinner.

"I'm so proud of you," Zach remembers telling her. At the same time, he was thinking: "Wow, she's pretty! Let me get her phone number!"

He did—and their courtship soon began. The twenty-somethings discovered their shared Christian values and the remarkable way they complemented each other. In part, that balance traced back to their brain injuries: Zach's on the left, Isabelle's on the right.

"She's the creative thinker, and I handle the nuts and bolts," said Zach, now 25, who lives in Apple Valley, Minn., and works at a Verizon store.

Strong where the other is weak. With God at the center, they move forward as one.

They're planning a September wedding in Red Wing, Minn., with their pastor from ZOE Church in Burnsville, which is associated with the Assemblies of God.

Reflecting on their journey to the altar still fills them with awe.

"God was looking out for us the whole time," said Isabelle.

"God is Faithful," added Zach. "All those painful moments made me stronger and led me to Isabelle."

When people hear their story, many remark that it sounds like a Hallmark movie.

Zach has the perfect reply: "God writes better stories than Hallmark!"

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



Jeanie Burney, left, was named the 2021 Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) Woman of the Year Oct. 8, 2021 during the group's 85th annual Fall Convention in Nazareth. Pictured to the right is then-DCCW president Monica Musick. (WTC file photo)

Gloria "Jeanie" Burney: 1946-2026

Amarillo—Gloria "Jeanie" Burney, the 2021 Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) Woman of the Year, passed away Jan. 7. She was 79 years old.

Mass was celebrated Jan. 17, St. Joseph's Church, Father Jim Schmitmeyer, presiding.

Mrs. Burney was born on Aug. 27, 1946 in St. Albans, Vermont. She graduated from Mr. St. Joseph's Academy in Rutland, Vermont and married the love of her life, Clayton Burney, on Sept. 1, 1962.

Mrs. Burney was employed as a cashier in Rutland, at The Big L, for several years. The family decided to move to Amarillo in February of 1979. According to her son, Nick, the family boarded the Greyhound bus on Feb. 11, 1979 and arrived in Amarillo on Valentine's Day. When they left Rutland, the temperature was -10° and when they arrived in Amarillo it was a balmy 86°, a record that still stands today.

According to her family, Mrs. Burney was a Faithful Catholic and served her church community by volunteering whenever possible. She was active in the St. Ann and Joachim Circle at St. Joseph's

Church, Amarillo, from 1979-1988. Mrs. Burney then became active in the St. Faustina Circle.

Since the Supreme Court's Roe v Wade verdict in 1973, Mrs. Burney's passion and real calling in life was as a pro-life advocate. She helped run the Amarillo Right to Life Group for many years and then took over the entire group for the last 15 years. Mrs. Burney maintained the booth every year at the Tri-State Fair and eagerly spoke to others about pro-life issues. In 2021, she was presented the Ray Huseman Servant of Life Award during the 24th annual Respect Life Banquet at the Amarillo Civic Center. Mrs. Burney was a member of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and was very active at St. Valentine Catholic Radio, serving as a volunteer for the station's RadioThon for many years.

Mrs. Burney was preceded in death by her mother, Alice Coleman; her husband, Clayton Burney; three brothers; and a cousin, Carolyn.

Survivors include her son, Nick Burney; his wife, Irma Burney; a granddaughter, Shelby; and a great-grandson, Scotty.

Quilt Fundraiser

Clarendon—St. Mary's Church is conducting a raffle to raise funds for its new church building, which is under construction. Top prize is a quilt, donated by Carolyn Ponce. Tickets are \$1.00 each, with the drawing taking place sometime in the next several months. Learn more about the quilt raffle by calling Chriss Clifford at 806-206-6767.

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, Feb. 20. 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 Men's ACTS (Adoration, Community, Theology and Service) Retreat is scheduled Thursday, Feb. 26 through Sunday, March 1, 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.

Friona Mexican Dinner

Friona—The Ladies Society at St. Teresa of Jesus Church will serve its annual Mexican Dinner Sunday, March 1 from 11:00am to 2:00pm in the parish hall, adjacent to the church at 401 West 17th Street. The meal of enchiladas, a taco, beans, rice, dessert, chips and salsa with tea is \$15.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children 10 and under. For more details, please call Lina Padilla at 806-265-7163 or Maria Loya at 806-346-2758.

Youth Bake Sale

Amarillo—The Youth Group at St. Thomas the Apostle Church will host a Bake Sale Sunday, March

8 after the 9:00am and 11:15am Masses. Cookies, cakes and pies will be on sale, with all proceeds collected going toward the group's summer trip to LoneStar Steubenville. Find out more by contacting St. Thomas Youth Director Andrew Neighbors at 806-358-2461 or via email, neighborspatriot@gmail.com

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 28 and Sunday, March 29 at the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center, 2100 North Spring. For more details about the Engaged Encounter weekend or to sign up, please contact Karlynn Hochstein in the diocesan Family Life Office at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 806-410-3839.

Letting The Light In

Hereford—Families, friends and alumni of St. Anthony's School are invited to partner in an improvement project at the school. Contributions are needed to purchase new windows on the west side of the north building of the

school, which are in need of replacement. New windows would replace many windows that are drafty, difficult to open, or are no longer energy efficient. To assist with a monetary contribution of any size, please call Father Grant Spinhirne at St. Anthony's Church at 806-364-6150.

Communion Ministers Needed

Amarillo—Volunteers are needed at BSA Hospital as communion ministers. The commitment does not require much time, according to Elma Fletcher, and training is provided. Those interested in volunteering are asked to contact Fletcher at 806-206-4496 or via email, elma_fletcher@yahoo.com.

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 expectant 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.

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.

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Sinaloa, Mexico—Adriana Medina Reyes, 35, passed away Dec. 18. Mass was celebrated Jan. 17, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Father Ron Matthews, presiding. Burial was in Sinaloa. Survivors include a sister, Alejandra Ontiveros Reyes; a niece, Irma Sofia; and a nephew, Cesar Santiago.

Dumas—Jose “Lalo” Eduardo Rangel, 68, passed away Dec. 29. Mass was celebrated Jan. 13, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo, Father Taylor Elzner, pastor, presiding. Survivors include his wife, Bertha “Betty” Rangel Marquez; three children, Claudia Rangel, Clarisa Castaneda and her husband Beto and Roger Rangel; two brothers, Abel Lopez and Rafael Lopez; a sister, Gloria Ruiz; six grandchildren, Briana Moreno, Rene Castaneda, Andrea Castaneda, Alexa Rangel, Alessandra Rangel and Gracie Rangel; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Amarillo—Eva Ruby Saucedo, 92, passed away Jan. 5. Mass was celebrated Jan. 14, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Father Taylor Elzner, pastor, presiding. Interment was in Memory Gardens Cemetery. Survivors include six children, Gloria Castillo, Juan Escoto, Gabriel Escoto, Mariana Salgado, Ramona Delgado and Diana Cox; a brother, Florentino Chavez Gutierrez; a niece, Victoria J. Gutierrez Vasquez; 17 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren and a niece, Victoria J. Gutierrez Vasquez.

Spearman—Santiago Tercero, 69, passed away Jan. 10. Mass was celebrated Jan. 16, Immaculate Conception Church, Perryton, Father Victor Hugo Andrade, pastor, presiding. Survivors include three sons, Santiago Tercero Jr., Jose Angel Tercero and Ivan Ter-

cero; two daughters, Lisa Foreman and Holly Tercero; six sisters, Elisa Jacquez, Laura Nieto, Elvira Salazar, Yolanda Venegas, Lourdes Hernandez and Linda Jimenez; four grandsons; and two granddaughters.

Cactus—Estanislao Castaneda, 88, passed away Jan. 12. Mass was celebrated Jan. 16, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Father Juan Carlos Barragan, pastor, presiding. Interment was in Dumas Cemetery, Dumas. Survivors include three children, Lorenzo Castaneda and his wife Genoveva and Maria Castaneda and her husband Martin Martinez, all of Cactus and Francisco Castaneda and his wife Catalina of El Paso; a daughter-in-law, Catalina Castaneda of Cactus; a brother, Jaime Castaneda of El Paso; and eight grandchildren, Ivan Castaneda, Carolina Castaneda Mendoza, Heriberto Castaneda, Karina Castaneda Calderon, Lilliana Castaneda, Jairo Castaneda, Osvaldo Castaneda and Juan Martinez.

Pampa—Randy Hill, 67, passed away Jan. 13. Mass was celebrated Jan. 17, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Father Guadalupe “Lupe” Mayorga, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery. Survivors include four siblings, Rhonda Hill, Richie Hill and Renita Logan and her husband Greg, all of Pampa and Rhea Oeser and her husband Jared of Muskogee, Okla.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Amarillo—Thomas B. Kempf, 74, passed away Jan. 13. Mass was celebrated Jan. 16, St. Hyacinth Church, Father Richard Zanetti, JCL, pastor, presiding. Interment was in Memory Gardens Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Connie Kempf; a daughter, Cindy Stallings and her husband Ted of Amarillo; two sons,

John A. Kempf and his wife Nancy of Canyon and Thomas J. Kempf and his wife Kelsi of Dallas; a brother, Gerald Kempf of Amarillo; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dimmitt—Juan Pablo “Palitos” Rodriguez, 85, passed away Jan. 14. Mass was celebrated Jan. 20, Immaculate Conception Church, Father Shane D. Wieck, pastor, San Jose Church, Hereford, presiding. Burial was in Castro Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Maria Rodriguez; nine children, Lourdes Rodriguez and her husband Federico Farias of San Fernando, Calif., Eduardo Rodriguez and his wife San Juana of Coronado Acres, Elva Rosalez of Earth, Marta Rodriguez and her husband Alfredo of Pacoima, Calif., Luz Rodriguez and her husband Jesse Rios and Pablo Rodriguez and his wife Monica Toscano, all of Hereford, Francisco Rodriguez and his wife Nancy of Amarillo, Juanita Gaytan and Francisco Jubera, both of Roswell, NM and Saida Rodriguez and her husband Jose Morales of San Jacinto, Calif.; a brother, Ubaldo Rodriguez of Dimmitt; three sisters, Te-

resa Rodriguez, Laura Rodriguez and Rosario Rodriguez and her husband Juan Ignacio Aguirre, all of Francisco Murguia, Durango, Mexico; 28 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Amarillo—Arturo Reyes Velasquez, 74, passed away Jan. 16. A Memorial Service was conducted Jan. 23, Brentwood Chapel, Schooler Funeral Home, Father Haider Quintero, pastor, St. Laurence Church, presiding. Survivors include his wife, Silvia Velasquez; four daughters, Bridgett Velasquez and her husband Arturo Sanchez of Fort Worth, Maria Velasquez, Vanessa Velasquez and her husband Jose Chavez and Alexandra Velasquez, all of Amarillo; five sons, Arthur Velasquez Jr. and his wife Christy, Vicente Velasquez, Nicholas Velasquez and his wife Tesla and David Ramos, all of Amarillo and Mario Velasquez and his wife Veronica of Fort Worth; two sisters, Maria Lopez and her husband Andres of Dimmitt and Martha Correa and her husband Salvador of Chicago; three brothers, Hector Velasquez and his wife Gloria and Oscar Velasquez

and his wife Blanca, all of Amarillo and Armando Velasquez and his wife Norma of Dimmitt; 43 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Amarillo—Evelyn Marie Rahn, 89, passed away Jan. 17. A Memorial Service was conducted Jan. 22, Brentwood Chapel, Schooler Funeral Home, Father Avitus K. Siriwa, parochial vicar, St. Mary's Cathedral, presiding. Interment was in Llano Cemetery. Survivors include four daughters, Joan Wood and her husband Ricky of Mesquite, Sharon Weese and Karen Guzman and her husband Edward, all of Amarillo and Donna Brown and her husband Kenney of Illinois; a son, Mark Rahn and his wife Veronica of Seguin; a sister, Theresa Cravotto and her husband Harry of Idaho; three brothers, Kenneth Nussbaum of California, Tom Nussbaum and his wife Joan of Cloudcroft and James Nussbaum of Amarillo; ten grandchildren, Taylor, Marissa, Ashley, Heath, Ayla, David, James, Joshua, Jeremy and Valorie; 13 great-grandchildren, Knox, Brylin, Alex, Sam, Bracken, Isabel, Grayson, Ellie, Zoe, Jordan, Chloe, Ezekeil and Xander; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Father Leo Lavoie, Feb. 3, 1978

Monsignor Stanley Crocchiola, Feb. 6, 1996

Monsignor Matthew G. Malnar, Feb. 6, 2021

Father Elmer J. Toups, CSsR, Feb. 7, 1995

Father Norman Boyd, S.A., Feb. 10, 2015

Deacon Hector Gallegos, Feb. 11, 2013

Deacon Floyd Ashley, Feb. 11, 2015

Father William M. Hammond, Feb. 13, 1971

Father William Blakeslee, Feb. 14, 1975

Deacon Richard Morris, Feb. 14, 1995

Father Francis R. Crowe, O.P., Feb. 16, 2010

Father Raymond Gillis, S.A., Feb. 20, 1988

Deacon Raymond Solano, Feb. 23, 2000

Deacon Richard Riley, Feb. 23, 2009



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Happy—Leonel Rubio Sosa, 88, passed away Jan. 19. Mass was celebrated Jan. 30, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Father Alvin Tshuma, parochial administrator, presiding. Burial was in Happy Cemetery. Survivors include eight children, MaryAnn Sosa, Lionel Sosa Jr. and his wife Sheila, Francis Farfan and her husband Javier, Betty Sosa and her husband Van, Jesse Sosa and his wife Rachelle, Susana Garza, Carlos Sosa and his wife Tonia and Paul Sosa II; three sisters, Luisa Rodriguez, Delia Chapa and Irene Martinez; a brother, David Sosa Jr.; 16 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

Spearman—Juan Luis Jaquez, 51, passed away Jan. 22. Mass was celebrated Jan. 27, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Father Hrudaya Kondamudi, parochial administrator, presiding. Burial was in Gruver Cemetery, Gruver. Survivors include his mother, Maria Jaquez of Spearman; a brother, Victor Jaquez and his wife Melinda of Spearman; two sisters, Lorena Serrano and her husband Gerardo of Guymon, Okla. and Mayra Jaquez of El Paso.

Hereford—Socorro Casas De Escobedo, 90, passed away Jan. 23. Mass was celebrated Jan. 28, San Jose Church, Father Shane D. Wieck, pastor, presiding. Burial was in St. Anthony’s Cemetery. Survivors include a sister, Ernestine Estrada of Hereford; ten nephews, Jaime Estrada and his wife Gabriela of Lubbock, Jacob Estrada and his wife Gabriela of New York, Miguel Casas and José Manuel Casas, Jr., both of Amarillo, Rafael Flores and Uriel Flores, both of Hereford and

Raul Rojas Casas, Armando Rojas Casas, Arturo Rojas Casas and Alfredo Rojas Casas, all of Juarez; two nieces, Esther Casas Rojas and Alicia Casas Rojas, both of Juarez; and a great-niece and nephew, Belen Estrada and Israel Estrada, both of Lubbock.

Amarillo—Irene Haro De Laureano, 77, passed away Jan. 23. Mass was celebrated Jan. 30, St. Laurence Church, Father Haider Quintero, pastor, presiding. Survivors include her husband, Arturo Laureano Sr.; four children, Hector Laureano and his wife Sara, Sergio Laureano, Martha Laureano and Claudia Soriano and her husband Jorge; 24 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Amarillo—Amy Vigil Maldonado, 47, passed away Jan. 23. Mass was celebrated Jan. 31, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Father Avitus K. Siriwa, parochial vicar, presiding. Survivors include her father, Alvin Vigil; her stepmother, Rosie Vigil; two sons, Gabriel Maldonado Jr. and Devin Maldonado; a daughter-in-law, Denise Gutierrez; three brothers, Carlos Vigil, Joseph Vigil and Joel Vargas; two grandchildren, Elena Maldonado and Eliel Gutierrez; and her grandmother, Natalia Bustamonte.

Hereford—David Casarez, 67, passed away Jan. 24. Mass was celebrated Jan. 30, San Jose Church, Father Shane D. Wieck, pastor, presiding. Burial was in St. Anthony’s Cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Jesusa Casarez; five children, Rojelio Casarez and his wife Victoria, Priscilla Martinez and her husband Jose and Acacia Vil-

lalobos and her husband Brian, all of Amarillo, Amanda Rodriguez and her husband Jesse of Hereford and David Casarez and his wife Yvonne of Canyon; four siblings, Ciro Casarez, Mike Casarez and Sylvia Cardenas and her husband Juan, all of Hereford and Leticia Alejandro of El Paso; 14 grandchildren, Jezebel Waddell and her husband Joshua, Maximus Martinez and his wife Yulisa Garcia, Hailey Casarez, Caterina Casarez, Ashton Martinez, David Ryan Casarez, Gaby Martinez, Matthew Martinez, Emily Martinez, Aaron Casarez, Abrielle Rodriguez, Elijah Rodriguez, Lorena Rodriguez and Isaiah Rodriguez; three great-grandchildren, Leilani Villalobos, Micah Villalobos and Adalynn Wadell, with two great grandchildren on the way, Grayson Waddell and Nayeli Villalobos; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Pampa—Esperanza “Comina” Perez, 66, passed away Jan. 26. Mass was celebrated Jan. 30, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Father Guadalupe “Lupe” Mayorga, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery. Survivors include her husband, Antonio Perez; four children, Eugenio Perez Sariñana and his wife Marissa, Daisy Perez Sariñana and her husband Fernando Rivera, Christopher Perez and his wife Mayra and Ivan Raul Perez Sariñana and his wife Lizeth Castillo; four siblings, Martin Sariñana Palacios, Valentin Sariñana Palacios, Maria Isabel Sariñana Palacios and Esiquio Sariñana Palacios; and 11 grandchildren, Liam Perez, Christopher Perez, Maritza Rivera, Kaylee Rivera, Itzell Perez, Iamilee Perez, Maria Jose Perez, Jaziel Perez, Melissa Montoya, Alexis Montoya and Jesus Perez.

Friona—Jovita Velasco, 97, passed away Jan. 27. Mass was celebrated Jan. 30, St. Teresa of Jesus Church, Father Nicholas Gerber, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Friona Cemetery. Survivors include two daughters, Maria Dolores Silva of Mexico and Jovita Saiz and her husband Daniel of Enid, Okla.; two sons, Joel F. Velasco and his wife Romalia of Cactus and Jose Jessie Velasco of Friona; 17 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Amarillo—Omar Alejandro Gonzalez, 28, passed away Jan. 28. Mass was celebrated Feb. 5, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Father Taylor Elzner, pastor, presiding. Burial was in Llano Cemetery East. Survivors include his wife Aaliyah Gonzalez; his parents, Monica and Jose Gonzalez; six children, Anjel, Ruby, Cruz, Omar, Catalina and Javier; a brother, Jose; several brothers and sisters-in-laws; numerous nieces and nephews; his grandparents, Carmen and Gilberton; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

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CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TULIA		\$ 379.00
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ST ANN'S CHURCH, STINNETT		\$ 50.00
ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH, DALHART		\$ 2,651.00
ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH, HEREFORD		\$ 998.90
ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON MISSION, TURKEY	ST	
FRANCIS CHURCH, AMARILLO		\$ 111.00
ST HYACINTH'S CHURCH, AMARILLO		\$ 1,861.50
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, BORGER	ST	\$ 1,235.00
JOHN NEPOMUCENE CHURCH, HART		\$ 240.00
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, AMARILLO		\$ 1,084.00
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, STRATFORD		\$ 433.00
ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH, AMARILLO		\$ 500.00
ST MARTIN DE PORRES CHURCH, AMARILLO	ST	\$ 50.00
MARY'S CATHEDRAL, AMARILLO		\$ 4,102.74
ST MARY'S CHURCH, CLARENDON		\$ 53.00
ST MARY'S CHURCH, TEXLINE		\$ 38.00
ST MARY'S CHURCH, UMBARGER		\$ 224.00
ST MARY'S CHURCH, WHEELER		\$ 530.00
ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, SHAMROCK		\$ 103.00
ST PAUL'S CHURCH, KRESS		
ST PETER'S CHURCH, BOOKER		\$ 52.00
ST TERESA'S CHURCH, FRIONA		\$ 283.00
ST THERESA'S CHURCH, PANHANDLE		\$ 254.00
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH, AMARILLO	ST	\$ 4,920.00
VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH, PAMPA		\$ 547.00
STS PETER & PAUL CHURCH, DUMAS		\$ 273.00
LESS ADMINISTRATIVE FEE		\$ (1,488.44)
Net Diocesan Collection		\$ 28,280.31

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

Father Ken Keller, March 1, 2018

Bishop Rudolph A. Gerken, March 2, 1943

Father Manuel Lorente-Medina, March 8, 2022

Father F. J. Herkert, March 9, 1947

Deacon Jim Clements, March 13, 2015

Deacon Wayne Norrell, March 13, 2021

Father James J. Lewis, C.M., March 18, 1945

Father William M. Stack, C.M., March 20, 1979

Deacon Joe Ortega, March 21, 2014

Bishop Leroy T. Matthiesen, March 22, 2010

Father James Erickson, March 24, 1984

Bishop John J. Morkovsky, March 24, 1990

Monsignor Norbert G. Kuehler, March 25, 2022

Father Theodore W. Nuss, C.M., March 26, 1944

Deacon Robert C. Keller, March 26, 2016

Deacon Tony Garza, March 29, 1992

Father Brendan Sherry, March 30, 2011

“REBUILD MY CHURCH !”

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!**


UNITED CATHOLICS



“¡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