

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## Diocese of Corpus Christi

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*Judicial Vicar*

MARC CERVANTES JD  
*Chancellor*

THE VERY REVEREND PETE ELIZARDO VF  
*Director of the Office of Divine Worship*

KATIA URIARTE PHILIPPELLO  
*Director, Office of Communications & Public Relations*

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DEACONS OF THE DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
CHANCERY STAFF

## College of Consultors

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THE VERY REVEREND PETE ELIZARDO  
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THE VERY REVEREND RAYNALDO YRLAS, JR.

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*Rector*  
THE REVEREND LUIS G. LOZANO, JR.  
*Parochial Vicar*

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(pro-Cathedral for the Diocese of Corpus Christi)*  
THE REVEREND CARLOS DE LA ROSA  
*Parochial Vicar, Most Precious Blood Parish*  
THE REVEREND ARULARASU MATHIAS  
*Parochial Vicar, Most Precious Blood Parish*

## SACRED MUSIC

MR. ALEX OLDROYD  
*Director of Sacred Music  
Corpus Christi Cathedral*  
DR. MEAGHAN KING  
*Organist  
Director of Sacred Music  
Most Precious Blood Parish*

THE PONTIFICAL CHORALE AND  
FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA OF  
CORPUS CHRISTI CATHEDRAL  
FESTIVAL CHOIR FROM  
THE DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Soprano  
Diane Henning  
Criselda Leal  
Elma Luick  
Mary Catherine Moore  
Lisa Marie Ramirez  
Carissa Reyes  
Maria Teresa Serna  
Seline Smith  
Diana Torres  
Patricia Torres  
Sarah Urbanovsky  
Nicole Weaver

Alto  
Gabriella Alaniz-Hernandez  
Nancy Becker  
Isabel Campos  
Molly Demel  
Sylvia S. Franco  
Nancy Fairchild  
Rebecca Galvan  
Sarah Garcia  
Jasmine Havlik-Longoria  
Belissa Perea  
Elsie Reichenbacher  
Elizabeth Williams

Tenor  
Santos Cantu  
Mary Kuffel  
Michael Urbanovsky

Bass  
Steve Cortinas  
Cristian De La Rosa  
Adrien Jimenez  
David Reichenbacher  
Kenneth Thurman  
Alfredo Vera

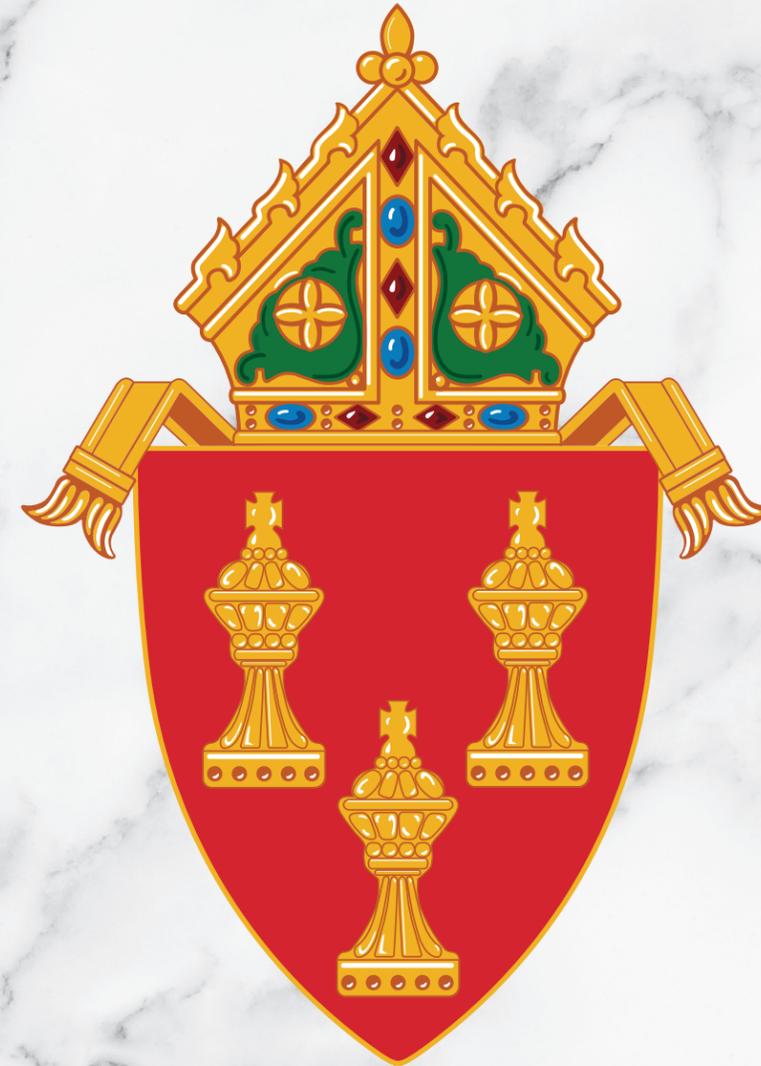
Trumpet  
Robert A. López  
Dr. Kyle McLean  
Horn  
Trevin Thurman

Trombone  
Dr. Donald Pinson  
Dr. Rai Morales  
Percussion  
Kenneth Thurman

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*Portrait of The Most Reverend Thomas J. Drury, Bishop of Corpus Christi*: Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers, Collection 5, Box 433, Folder 12. Special Collections and Archives, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.  
*Most Reverend Mariano S. Garriga in 1961*, photograph, May 8, 1961; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph39704/>; accessed January 19, 2026), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>; crediting Marfa Public Library.



THE INSTALLATION OF  
**THE MOST REVEREND MARIO A. AVILÉS co**  
AS THE NINTH BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CHURCH † JANUARY 28, 2026 · 2:00 PM

## PAST BISHOPS OF CORPUS CHRISTI



THE MOST REVEREND  
**PAUL JOSEPH NUSSBAUM** CP  
(1870–1935)

FIRST BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
(8 JUNE 1913–26 MARCH 1920)

Motto  
Passio Christi in cordibus nostris  
*The Passion of Christ is in Our Bodies*

Notable History  
First member of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ to be appointed bishop in the United States

Welcomed many priests and religious who fled Mexico during the Mexican Revolution.

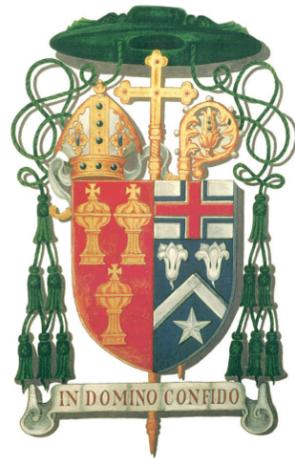
Emphasized daily Communion established by Pope Pius X and Catholic education, doubling the number of parochial schools

THE MOST REVEREND  
**EMMANUEL BOLESLAUS LEDVINA**  
(1868–1952)

SECOND BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
(12 JULY 1921–15 MARCH 1949)

Motto  
In Domino confido  
*In God we trust*

Notable History  
Increased priests in the Diocese from 32 to 160  
Constructed Corpus Christi Cathedral (1940) and more than fifty churches  
Namesake of Emmanuel Chapel at the Cathedral  
Named an honorary canon (1919) of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe (México City) and elevated (1931) to Assistant at the Pontifical Throne by the Vatican



THE MOST REVEREND  
**MARIANO SIMON GARRIGA**  
(1886–1965)

COADJUTOR BISHOP  
(1936–1949)

THIRD BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
(15 MARCH 1949–21 FEBRUARY 1965)

Motto  
Sub Tutela Matris  
*Under the Protection of His Mother*

Notable History  
Served as a chaplain to Texas National Guard during WWI & President of Incarnate Word College in San Antonio  
First bishop of Texas diocese born in Texas  
Established minor seminary and several parochial schools  
Attended first session of Second Vatican Council



## † RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Now Thank We All Our God*

NUN DANKETT

Martin Rinckart (1586–1649)  
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878), alt.

Johann Crüger (1598–1662); harm  
arr. John Rutter (b. 1949)

1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voice,  
2. O may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
3. All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,

1. Who wondrous things has done, In whom this world rejoices; Who from our mothers' arms  
2. With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us; Pre-serve us in his grace,  
3. The Son and Spirit blessed Who reign in high-est heav-en; E-ter-nal, tri-une God,

1. Has blessed us on our way With count-less gifts of love, And still is ours to-day.  
2. And guide us when per-plexed, And free us from all ills In this world and the next.  
3. Whom earth and heav'n adore; For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev-er more.

## ORGAN POSTLUDE

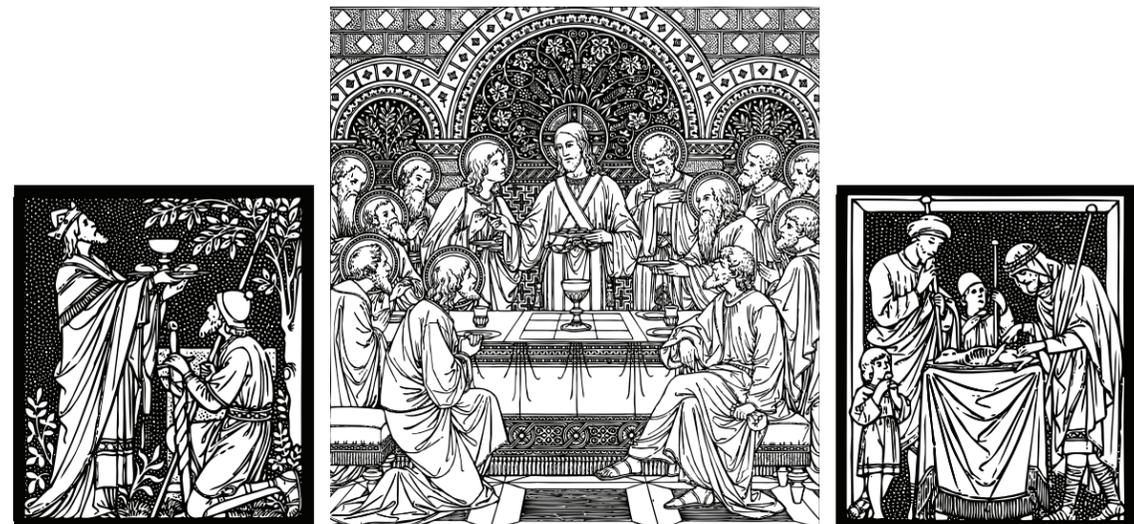
*Tocatta from 5<sup>o</sup> Symphonie pour Orgue*

Charles-Marie Widor  
(1844–1937)

## RECEPTION

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE MASS

LOCATED IN THE SAINT MARIA GORETTI YOUTH CENTER ON THE PARISH CAMPUS



† POST-COMMUNION PRAYER



℞ A - men.

**HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* **GROßER GOTT**

TEXT: *Te Deum laudamus* *Allgemeines Katholisches Gesangbuch*  
para. *Großer Gott*, attr. Ignaz Franz (1719–1790); tr. Clarence A. Walworth (1820–1900) Vienna (1774)



1. Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow be - fore you.  
2. Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;  
3. Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train Join your sa - cred name to hal - low:  
4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it, three we name you,



1. All on earth your scep - ter claim, All in heav'n a - bove a - dore you,  
2. Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim, In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing,  
3. Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain, And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low:  
4. Though in es - sence on - ly one: Un - di - vi - ded God we claim you



1. In - fi - nite your vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
2. Fill the heav'n's with sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"  
3. And from morn to set of sun Through the church the song goes on. (Interlude)  
4. And, a - dor - ing, bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

† PONTIFICAL BLESSING

℣. *The Lord be with you.* ℞ **And with your spirit.**  
℣. *Blessed be the name of the Lord.* ℞ **Now and for ever.**  
℣. *Our help is in the name of the Lord.* ℞ **Who made heaven and earth.**  
℣. *May almighty God bless you, the* ✠ *Father, and the* ✠ *Son, and the* ✠ *Holy Spirit.*  
℞ **Amen."**

† DISMISSAL

℣. *The Deacon says or sings the dismissal.*  
℞ **"Thanks be to God."**

† MARIAN HYMN *Alma Redemptoris Mater* Plainsong, mode V

MARIAN HYMN FOR ADVENT – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (FEB. 2)



TRANSLATION FOR ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, who remains the accessible Gateway of Heaven, and Star of the Sea,	Give aid to a falling people that strives to rise; O Thou who begot thy holy Creator, while all nature marvelled,	Virgin before and after receiving that "Ave" from the mouth of Gabriel, have mercy on [us] sinners.
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THE MOST REVEREND  
**ADOLPH MARX**  
(1915–1965)

AUXILIARY BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
(9 OCTOBER 1956–9 JULY 1965)

Motto

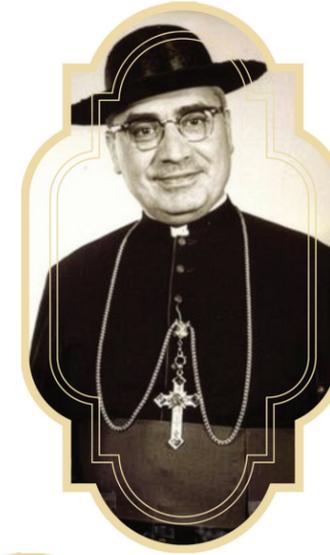
Plentitudo legis dilectio  
*The fulfillment of the law is love*

Notable History

Consecrated in Corpus Christi Cathedral  
Attended Second Vatican Council in Rome

Appointed First Bishop of Brownsville by Pope Paul VI;  
installed 2 September 1965

Died 1 November 1965 while visiting Cologne, Germany



THE MOST REVEREND  
**THOMAS JOSEPH DRURY** DD, LHD  
(1908–1992)

FOURTH BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
(1965–1983)

Motto

Deo servire regnare  
*To serve God is to reign*

Notable History

Expanded the Diocesan Curia from two to thirty-two  
departments, including Catholic Charities, the Office of  
Catholic Schools, and the *Texas Gulf Coast Register*  
(later *South Texas Catholic*)

Bishop of San Angelo (TX) before being appointed  
to Corpus Christi



THE MOST REVEREND  
**ROBERTO OCTAVIO GONZÁLES NIEVES** OFM  
(B. 1950)

SIXTH BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
(1 APRIL 1997–26 MARCH 1999)

Motto

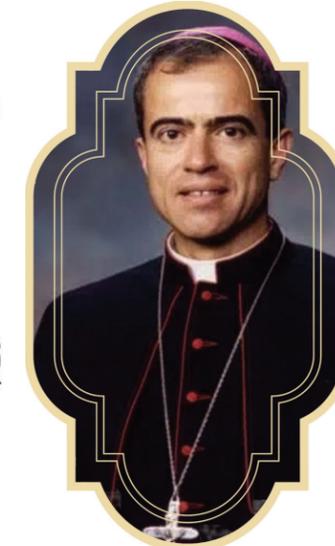
Vita per Jesum  
*Life through Jesus*

Notable History

Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Boston  
1988–1995

Appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Corpus Christi  
on 16 May 1995

Appointed Archbishop of San Juan Puerto Rico  
on 26 March 1999



## BISHOPS EMERITI OF CORPUS CHRISTI



THE MOST REVEREND  
**RENÉ HENRY GRACIDA**  
(B. 1923)  
FIFTH BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
(11 JULY 1983–1 APRIL 1997)



Motto  
Abyssus abyssum invocat  
*Deep calls to deep*

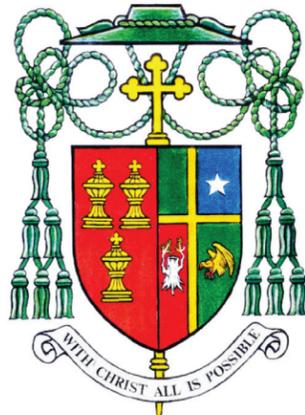
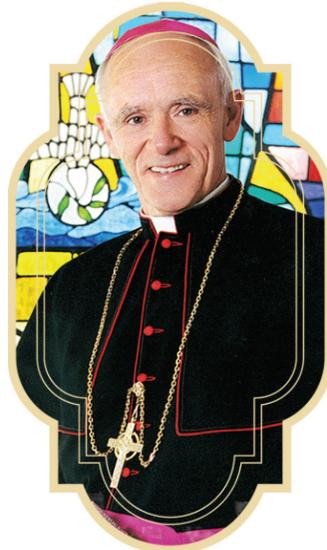
Notable History  
Auxiliary Bishop of Miami  
(25 January 1972–1 October 1975)  
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee  
(6 November–19 May 1983)  
Established Diocesan Telecommunications,  
expanding radio & TV presence of the Diocese  
Oldest living bishop in the United States  
and second oldest worldwide

THE MOST REVEREND  
**EDMOND CARMODY** DD  
(B. 1934)

SEVENTH BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
(17 MARCH 2000–18 JANUARY 2010)

Motto  
With Christ all is possible

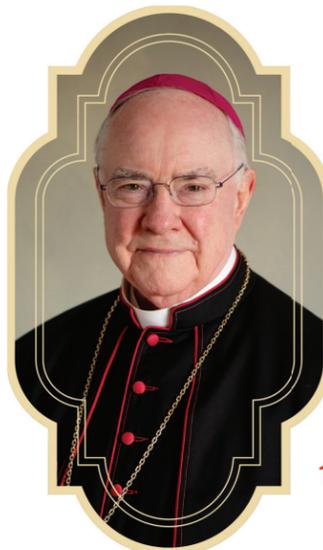
Notable History  
Attended St. Patrick Seminary, Carlow, Ireland  
Ordained 1957 in Ireland for the Archdiocese of San Antonio (TX);  
immigrated September 1957 to the United States  
Consecrated 15 December 1988;  
Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio  
Appointed Bishop of Tyler (TX) 24 March 1992  
Appointed Bishop of Corpus Christi 3 February 2000  
Founded John Paul II High School in 2006  
(now John Paul II Academy)



THE MOST REVEREND  
**Wm. MICHAEL MULVEY** STL, DD  
(B. 1949)  
EIGHTH BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
(25 MARCH 2010–1 DECEMBER 2025)

Motto  
Sententia in Christo Vobis  
*Have the same attitude as Christ*

Notable History  
Attended Seminary at the Pontifical North  
American College in Rome  
Ordained June 29, 1975 in St. Peter's Square  
by Pope Paul VI for the Diocese of Austin  
Past assignments include Chancellor, Vicar General,  
and Administrator of the Diocese of Austin, and  
Vice-Rector of Saint Mary's Seminary in Houston



## † AGNUS DEI

*Cordero de Dios*

Misa Guadalupe  
Joel Martinson (b. 1960)



*The people kneel.*

## ‡ ECCE AGNUS DEI ¶ Behold the Lamb of God....

℣ Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION SELECTED FROM:

*Qui manducat: He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him, says the Lord. (Jn 6:57; Psalm 119)*

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the Lord.  
Blessed are those who keep his decrees!  
With all their hearts they seek him.  
I treasure your word in my heart,  
lest I sin against you.

Remember your word to your servant,  
by which you made me hope.  
This is my comfort in sorrow;  
that your promise gives me life.  
The law from your mouth means more to me  
than large quantities of silver and gold.

How sweet is your promise to my tongue,  
more than honey to my mouth.  
Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
and a light for my path.  
I rejoice at your promise,  
like one who finds great treasure.

## Anima Christi

*Anima Christi, sanctifica me.*  
*Corpus Christi, salva me.*  
*Sanguis Christi, inebria me.*  
*Aqua lateris Christi, lava me.*  
Passio Christi, conforta me.  
O bone Jesu, exaudi me.  
Intra tua vulnera absconde me.

Ne permittas me separari a te.  
Ab hoste maligno defende me.  
In hora mortis meae voca me.  
Et jube me venire ad te,  
Ut cum Sanctis tuis laudem te,  
In saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Soul of Christ, sanctify me.*  
*Body of Christ, save me.*  
*Blood of Christ, inebriate me.*  
*Water from Christ's side, wash me.*  
*Passion of Christ, strengthen me.*  
*O good Jesus, hear me.*  
*Within Thy wounds hide me.*

## Marco Frisina

(b. 1954)  
*Suffer me not to be separated  
from Thee; from the malicious  
enemy, defend me. In the hour of  
my death, call me.*  
*And bid me come unto Thee  
That I may praise Thee with Thy  
saints and with Thy angels  
Forever and ever. Amen.*

## Behold the Wounds in Jesus' Hands

TEXT: John Pearson

Behold the wounds in Jesus' hands,  
The marks upon His side.  
Then ponder whom He meant to save  
When on the Cross He died.  
We cannot see the love of God  
Which saves us from the fall,  
Yet know that Christ from wood and  
nails built mansions for us all.

Behold the outstretched hands of  
Christ, Our God, who came to save,  
Whose love and grace redeems our  
souls and lifts us from the grave.  
Tho' bruised and battered as we stray  
His guiding hands caress,  
He washes and anoints with oil  
Then in his arms we rest.

Behold the wounds in Jesus' hands,  
Look to your Lord and live.  
He yearns to bless you with His love  
And all your sins forgive.  
Oh, empty is the heart of man  
When it is filled with sin.  
Come, open wide your broken heart  
and let your Savior in.

## David Naylor

(1958–2020)  
Behold his wounded hands and feet!  
Come touch and see and feel  
the wounds and marks that you  
may know His love for you is real.  
Then as you fall to worship Him and  
wash His feet in tears,  
Your Savior takes you in His arms  
and quiets all your fears.

## Panis Angelicus

TEXT: St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)  
from *Sacris Solemnis* (for the Feast of Corpus Christi)

Panis angelicus  
fit panis hominum;  
Dat panis coelicus  
figuris terminum:

O res mirabilis!  
Manducat Dominum  
pauper, servus et humilis.

Seline Smith, soprano

*Thus Angels' Bread is made  
the Bread of man today:  
the Living Bread from heaven  
with figures dost away:*

Alfredo Vera, baritone

## César Franck

(1822–1890)  
*O wondrous gift indeed!  
the poor and lowly may  
upon their Lord and Master feed.*

## Ave Verum Corpus

TEXT: attr. Pope Innocent VI (1282–1362)

Ave verum corpus,  
natum de Maria Virgine,  
vere passum, immolatum  
in cruce pro homine

cuius latus perforatum  
aqua fluxit et sanguine:  
esto nobis prægustatum  
in mortis examine.

*Hail, true Body,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
who truly suffered, sacrificed  
on the Cross for man,  
Whose pierced side*

## Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756–1791)  
*overflowed with water and blood;  
Be for us a foretaste  
[of the Heavenly banquet]  
in the trial of death.*

† THE LORD'S PRAYER

☩ Præceptis salutaribus moniti, et divina institutione formati, audemus dicere:

After the chalice and paten have been set down, the Celebrant, with hands joined, says:

☩ At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

☩ Fieles a la recomendación del Salvador y siguiendo su divina enseñanza, nos atrevemos a decir:

Together with the congregation, he continues:

**P**A-ter noster, qui es in cæ-lis: sancti-fi-cé-tur nomen tu-um; advé-ni-at regnum tu-um; fi-at vo-lúntas tu-a, sic-ut in cæ-lo, et in terra.

Panem nostrum co-ti-di-á-num da nobis hó-di-e; et dimítte nobis de-bi-ta nostra, si-cut et nos di-mít-timus de-bi-tó-ri-bus nostris; et ne nos indú-cas in tenta-ti-o-nem; sed li-be-ra nos a ma-lo. *Li-be-ra nos,... Salvatoris nostri Je-su*

*The celebrant alone continues...*

*The Celebrant joins his hands, and the people conclude:*

*Chri-sti. R.* Qui-a tu-um est regnum, et po-téstas, et gló-ri-a in sæcu-la.

**P**ATER NOSTER, qui es in cælis: sanctificetur nomen tuum; adveniat regnum tuum; fiat voluntas tua, sicut in cælo, et in terra.

Panem nostrum cotidianum da nobis hodie; et dimitte nobis debita nostra, sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris; et ne nos inducas in tentationem; sed libera nos a malo.

*The Celebrant alone continues...*

☩ Libera nos quæsumus, Domine, ab omnibus malis, da propitius pacem in diebus nostris, ut, ope misericordiæ tuæ adiuti, et a peccato simus semper liberi et ab omni perturbatione securi: expectantes beatam spem et adventum Salvatoris nostri Jesu Christi.

*The Celebrant joins his hands, and the people conclude the prayer:*

☩ Quia tuum est regnum, et potestas, et gloria in sæcula.

**O**UR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

*The Celebrant alone continues...*

☩ Libera nos quæsumus, Domine, ab omnibus malis, da propitius pacem in diebus nostris, ut, ope misericordiæ tuæ adiuti, et a peccato simus semper liberi et ab omni perturbatione securi: expectantes beatam spem et adventum Salvatoris nostri Jesu Christi.

*The Celebrant joins his hands, and the people conclude the prayer:*

☩ For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.

**P**ADRENUESTRO, que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre; venga a nosotros tu reino; hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo.

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del mal.

*The Celebrant alone continues...*

☩ Líbranos de todos los males, Señor, y concédenos la paz en nuestros días, para que, ayudados por tu misericordia, vivamos siempre libres de pecado y protegidos de toda perturbación, mientras esperamos la gloriosa venida de nuestro Salvador, Jesucristo.

*The Celebrant joins his hands, and the people conclude the prayer:*

☩ Tuyo es el reino, tuyo el poder y la gloria, por siempre, Señor.

† SHARING OF A SIGN OF PEACE

THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO



HIS EMINENCE  
**CHRISTOPHE CARDINAL PIERRE**  
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES



**MOTTO**

Si scires donum Dei

If you knew the gift of God (John 4:10)



**APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The Holy See holds the longest tradition of diplomatic initiatives among all sovereign entities in the world today. Since the time of Constantine in the fourth century, the Pope, as the Bishop of Rome, has exercised unique spiritual and temporal authority. Over the centuries, he has sent and received delegates to and from other heads of state to

clarify Church teachings, promote international peace, and address various global challenges.

As the Vicar of Christ on Earth, the Pope appoints an Apostolic Nuncio (Ambassador of the Holy See) — literally “a messenger” — to ensure that every country has a visible sign of his care for the entire flock of the Lord. The Apostolic Nuncio serves as the Pope’s personal and official representative, both to the Church in the United States and to its government.

**APOSTOLIC NUNCIO**

Cardinal Christophe Pierre was born on January 30, 1946, in Rennes, France. He completed his primary education in Antsirabé, Madagascar, and his secondary schooling in Saint-Malo, France, and Marrakech, Morocco. He attended the Major Seminary of the Archdiocese of Rennes (1963–1969) and the Catholic Institute of Paris (1969–1971).

From July 1965 to October 1966, he served in the military. He was ordained a priest on April 5, 1970, in Saint-Malo, France, and was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Rennes. He served as Parochial Vicar of the St. Peter and St. Paul Parish in Colombes, Diocese of Nanterre, France (1970–1973).

He holds a Master’s in Sacred Theology (Paris, 1971) and a Doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome (1973–1977). He completed his studies at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome (1973–1977) and entered the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See on March 5, 1977.

His first assignment was to the Pontifical Representation in New Zealand and the Islands of the Pacific Ocean (1977–1981). He later served in Mozambique (1981), Zimbabwe (1982–1986), Cuba (1986–1989), Brazil (1989–1991), and at the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland (1991–1995).

On July 12, 1995, Pope Saint John Paul II elevated him to the position of Apostolic Nuncio and Titular Archbishop of Gunela. He received Episcopal Consecration on September 24, 1995, in Saint-Malo, France.

Cardinal Pierre served as Apostolic Nuncio in Haiti from 1995 until

1999. He was then appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda (1999–2007) and subsequently to Mexico (2007–2016). On April 12, 2016, Pope Francis appointed him Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America.

On July 9, 2023, Pope Francis announced his intention to elevate Archbishop Pierre to the College of Cardinals. At the Public Consistory on September 30, 2023, he was created Cardinal Deacon of San Benedetto fuori Porta S. Paolo.

Cardinal Pierre speaks French, English, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese.

**EPISCOPAL COAT OF ARMS**

The motto *Si Scires Donum Dei* “If you knew the gift of God” refers to the moment when a Samaritan woman was sitting by a well and Jesus asked her for a drink of water:

“Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’” (John 4:10)

The shield contains three significant charges or symbols:

The Ermine: Represented by “*passant argent gorged or and lampassed gules*,” this symbol is derived from the Coat of Arms of Saint-Malo, the Cardinal’s hometown. According to legend, the ermine would rather die than have its pure white fur stained.

The Rock: This represents the granite rocks of Brittany, known for their resilience against the constant assaults of the sea. It symbolizes strength and solidity. The Cardinal’s surname, “Pierre,” is the French word for rock or stone, and reflects his mission to represent the successor of the first Pope, who was named by Jesus as Cephas (rock or stone).

The River: The river crossing the shield represents the water the Samaritan woman saw at the well of Jacob when Jesus offered her living water. It also symbolizes the river that St. Christopher, the “Christ-bearer,” helped people cross. Once, when carrying a child on his shoulders, the child became unexpectedly heavy, revealing itself as Jesus.

The Coat of Arms was designed by Xavier Pierre, the Cardinal’s younger brother, who passed away in 1999.

## METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP

His Excellency Joe S. Vásquez is the Metropolitan Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and pastor to its 2 million-plus Catholics (and the 7.1 million people within the Archdiocese) and 435 priests in 146 parishes and 54 schools spread over 8,880 square miles. His seats are St. Mary Cathedral Basilica in Galveston and the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston.

Archbishop Vásquez was born July 9, 1957, in Stamford, Texas to Juan and Elvira Vásquez. He is the eldest of six children with three brothers: Robert Vásquez, Samuel Vásquez, and James Vásquez; and two sisters: Cynthia Martínez and Consuelo Garza.

He obtained a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, and a licentiate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained a priest on June 30, 1984, for the Diocese of San Angelo. In the Diocese of San Angelo, he served as Associate Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Odessa from 1985 to 1987; as Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Fort Stockton from 1987 to 1997; and as Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in San Angelo from 1997 to 2002.

He was appointed titular bishop of Cova and Auxiliary Bishop of Galveston-Houston on Nov. 30, 2001, and received his episcopal ordination on Jan. 23, 2002. On Jan. 26, 2010, he was appointed Bishop of Austin and also served as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Tyler from Nov. 11, 2023, to Feb. 24, 2025.

On Jan. 20, 2025, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin as Archbishop of Galveston-Houston. The appointment was publicized in Washington, D.C. by Christophe Cardinal Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Archbishop Vásquez was installed as the archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston on March 25, 2025. He is the ninth Bishop and third Metropolitan Archbishop of Galveston-Houston. Archbishop Vásquez currently serves as a consultant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities and as Lead Bishop for Region X for the V National Encounter for Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

He has previously served on the following committees of the USCCB: Chair, Committee on Migra-

tion; Administrative Committee; Committee for Religious Liberty; consultant to the Committee on International Justice and Peace, the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs; and the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. He also previously served on the Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

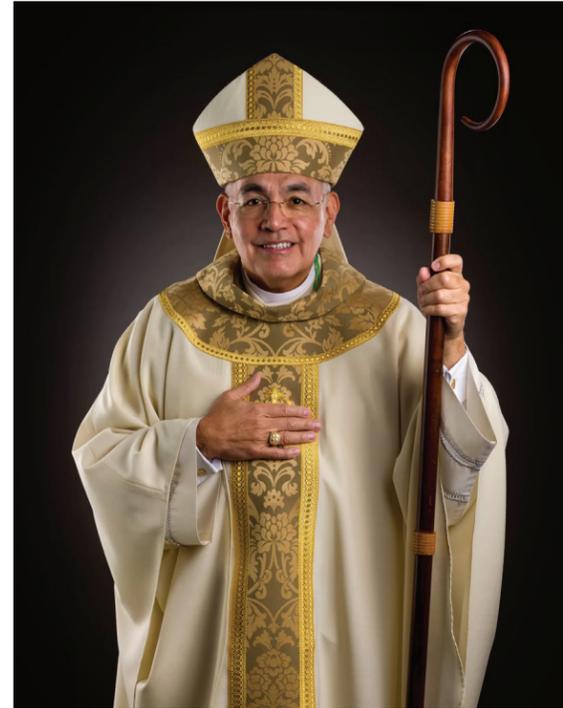
### EPISCOPAL COAT OF ARMS

By heraldic tradition, the arms of the Metropolitan Archbishop are impaled with the arms of his jurisdiction—the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. These are composed of a blue field on which is displayed a scattering (semé) of silver roses. These roses represent the Blessed Virgin Mary in her title of the Mystical Rose, titular of the Cathedral-Basilica in the See City of Galveston. Upon this symbolism is a red cross of The Faith, with a square center that contain a single silver star to represent Texas, the "Lone Star State."

For his personal arms, His Excellency selected a device that reflects his life as a priest and now as a bishop. Rendered primarily in Hispanic colors of gold and red to reflect the heritage that has come to him from his parents, Juan and Elvira Vásquez, His Excellency's design expresses his deep dedication and devotion to the members of The Holy Family. Prime among these, of course, is "The Cross," presented here in red on a gold field. It is by way of this Cross that Our Savior, Jesus Christ, redeemed the world and to which Archbishop Vásquez has dedicated himself in the Holy Orders in The Church.

In the lower left of the Archbishop's shield (*base dexter*) is a red rosebud with its stem and leaves rendered in green. The rose honors Mary in her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, for it was the roses that Blessed Juan Diego carried to the Bishop of Mexico City as the sign of his apparition from the Virgin Mary. It was in carrying the roses in his garment that led to her likeness being placed on his tilma, which still hangs in the basilica dedicated to Mary as Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas.

In the upper right (*chief sinister*) is a fleur-de-lis, a symbol of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary. The lily is used to reflect that the Archbishop was Assistant Pastor at St. Joseph' Parish in Odessa; Pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Fort Stockton; and when he was se-



THE MOST REVEREND  
**JOE S. VÁSQUEZ**  
ARCHBISHOP OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON



### MOTTO

Sígueme

Follow Me

lected to receive the fullness of Christ's Priesthood by being named Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, he was Pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in San Angelo. The fleur-de-lis used here is also special for it is called "Florentine" as it is used in the arms of the City of Florence, Italy. The name of the city, when said in Italian is "Firenze," the surname of the bishop who laid his hands upon Archbishop Vásquez twice, having ordained him a priest and a bishop.

Archbishop Vásquez' motto expresses

the instruction that Christ gives each of those called by the name of Christian— *Follow Me*— for it is what it means to be a Christian, one who follows Christ.

The achievement is completed with external ornaments which are a jeweled gold Archepiscopal processional cross, which has two cross-members, impaled behind the shield, and the Galero with its ten tassels, in four rows, on either side of the shield, all in green.



1. at — bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end;  
2. with — gra - cious in - vi - ta - tion you sum - mon us to dine.  
3. that — they may fol - low Christ, — the ex - am - ple of us all.  
4. from the hum - ble to the haugh - ty, the Word of God make heard.  
5. we'll — tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



1. we lift our hearts be - fore — you and wait up - on your word,  
2. In mer - cy, draw us 'round — you, your Word our source and stay;  
3. Pro - tect them and — guide — them, their faith in you be strong  
4. To cel - e - brate the sac - ra - ments, in fit - ting praise pro - claim,  
5. to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



1. we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
2. our wor - ship here we give you, O life and truth and way.  
3. as — now they jour - ney on - ward, we sing the an - cient song:  
4. in love of Ho - ly Trin - i - ty, give hon - or to God's name.  
5. and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

*The people stand as the Deacon incenses the assembly.*

### † ORATE, FRATES (Pray, brothers and sisters...)

℟ May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of your holy Church.

### † PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

℟ Amen.

### † PREFACE ACCLAMATION



V. The Lord be with you. R. And with your spir-it. V. Lift up your hearts. R. We lift them up to the Lord.



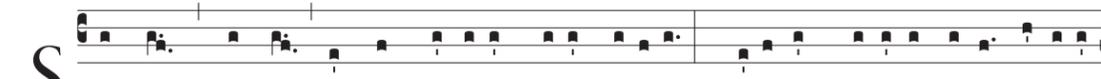
V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R. It is right and just.

*(the Celebrant continues...)*

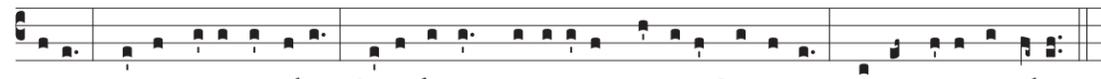
### † SANCTUS

*Missa Deus Genitor Alme*

Mass XVIII



S anctus, \* Sanctus, Sanctus Dóminus De-us Sába-oth. Pleni sunt cæ-li et terra gló-ri - a



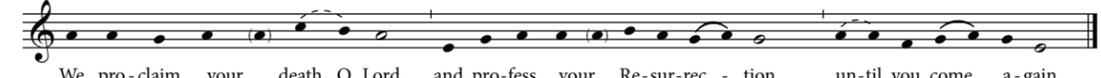
tu - a Ho - sánna in excélsis Bene - díctus qui venit in nómine Dómi - ni Ho - sánna in excélsis.

*All kneel, or observe their custom.*

### ‡ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### ‡ MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Missal Chants



We pro - claim your death, O Lord, and pro - fess your Re - sur - rec - tion, un - til you come — a - gain.  
A - nun - cia - mos tu muer - te, pro - cla - ma - mos tu re - su - rrec - ción. ; Ven, — Se - ñor — Je - sús!

### ‡ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER, cont'd.

### ‡ FINAL DOXOLOGY

Missal Chants



℟ A - men, a - men, a - men.

*The people respond "Amen," then stand.*

## † UNIVERSAL PRAYER

The celebrant introduces the Universal Prayer by which the people respond to the Word of God which they have received in faith, and, exercising the office of their baptismal Priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all.

A cantor may briefly introduce the intention, calling the faithful to pray. The intentions of the prayer are read or sung in various

*(read in English)*

For the Church, one and holy because of the Spirit who pervades her: that she may remain steadfast in faith and draw from Christ, her head and Lord, the strength to grow more perfect in unity and love.

☩ *Dominum deprecemur.*  
 ☩ **Te rogamus, audi nos.**

*(read in Vietnamese)*

For our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV; that the Lord who chose him as pastor of the universal Church may give him health and strength to exercise fully his ministry of reconciliation and mercy.

☩ *Dominum deprecemur.*  
 ☩ **Te rogamus, audi nos.**

*(read in Spanish)*

For our Bishop, Mario Avilés, who now leads the Church of Corpus Christi as its chief shepherd; may God help him to be a faithful teacher, a wise administrator, and a holy priest, and may his life and ministry imbue the Church of Corpus Christi with the knowledge that we are the Lord's.

☩ *Dominum deprecemur.*  
 ☩ **Te rogamus, audi nos.**

languages. After each, a cantor sings in Latin:  
*Dominum deprecemur...*

and the people respond: ☩ **Te rogamus, audi nos.**

*Deacon/Cantor*                      *The people:*

☩. Dóminum depre-cemur. ☩. Te ro-gamus, audi nos.  
*(We pray to the Lord.)*                      *(Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.)*  
*(Roguemos al Señor.)*                      *(Señor, escucha nuestra oración.)*

*(read in French)*

For all civil leaders who have care for the common good; that they may promote the God-given dignity and rights of every person, and governing in charity and truth, may safeguard the sanctity of human life at every stage.

☩ *Dominum deprecemur.*  
 ☩ **Te rogamus, audi nos.**

*(read in Tagalog)*

For all who have suffered abuse: that God's steadfast love may dwell with them in their suffering, and that they may know they are never alone in their journey toward peace.

☩ *Dominum deprecemur.*  
 ☩ **Te rogamus, audi nos.**

*(in American Sign Language)*

For those who are afflicted in body and spirit; that God may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to exiles, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger, and disease.

☩ *Dominum deprecemur.*  
 ☩ **Te rogamus, audi nos.**

*(read in Italian)*

For an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, that, assisted by the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, many more young men and women will seek to manifest God's kingdom through lives of prayer and apostolic service.

☩ *Dominum deprecemur.*  
 ☩ **Te rogamus, audi nos.**

*(read in Malayalam)*

For our deceased brothers and sisters whom we commend with our prayers to our merciful redeemer, that they may see God face to face.

☩ *Dominum deprecemur.*  
 ☩ **Te rogamus, audi nos.**

The celebrant concludes the prayer, and the people respond:



☩. Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*All are seated for the Offertory and join in singing the hymn.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

TEXT: vss. 1, 4: Michael Perry (1942-1996)  
 vss. 2-3: Bernard Kirkpatrick

### O God, Beyond All Praising

THAXTED  
 Gustav Holst (1874-1934)  
 arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)



1. O — God be - yond all prais - ing, we wor - ship you to - day
2. O — Christ, the world's sal - va - tion, your Chur - ch's Cor - ner - stone,
3. O — God of all cre - a - tion, whose glo - ry fills the sky,
4. "You are a priest for - ev - er," with - in God's ho - ly Church,
5. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



1. and — sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay;
2. we — come in ju - bi - la - tion to sing your love made known.
3. we — gath - er in your pre - sence, our spir - its lift - ed high,
4. "in the or - der of Mel - chi - ze - dek," a priest be - fore your birth.
5. that — we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



1. for — we can on - ly won - der at — ev - 'ry gift you send,
2. You — are our vine and shep - herd; you — are our head di - vine;
3. to — bring for hum - ble ser - vice those who an - swer to your call,
4. Called out to be a pas - tor, the — flock of Christ to serve,
5. And — wheth - er our to - mor - rows be — filled with good or ill,

## THE BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI



THE MOST REVEREND  
**MARIO ALBERTO AVILÉS c.o.**



**PREVIOUSLY**  
 Auxiliary Bishop  
 of Brownsville

Titular Bishop  
 of Cataquas

### MOTTO

Caritas Dei diffusa est  
 in cordibus nostris

*The love of God has been poured  
 into our hearts (Romans 5:5)*

### CURRICULUM VITÆ

Born in Mexico City, México, on September 16, 1969 to Rafael and María Guadalupe Avilés, he joined the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in 1986.

His studies for the priesthood began at the *Universidad*

*Panamericana* in Mexico City and continued at the Pontifical Athenæum *Regina Apostolorum* in Rome, where he earned bachelor's degrees in philosophy and sacred theology. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree in education administration

and supervision from the Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut. He is a certified teacher in the State of Texas.

Bishop Avilés was ordained to the priesthood on July 21, 1998, at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle—National Shrine in San Juan, Texas. Following ordination, he was appointed parochial vicar at St. Jude Thaddeus Church in Pharr, Texas (1998–2002). He also served as a teacher and principal at his congregation's school.

In 2002, he was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Hidalgo, Texas. From 2000 to 2012, he served as a member of the Permanent Deputation of the Confederation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, and in 2012, he was elected Procurator General of the Confederation of the Oratory.

On December 4, 2017, Pope Francis appointed him Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas. He received episcopal ordination February 22, 2018, at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle—National Shrine in San Juan, Texas with The Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores, *Bishop of Brownsville*; The Most Reverend Raymundo Peña, *Bishop Emeritus of Brownsville*; and The Most Reverend Eugenio Lira Rugarcía, *Bishop of Matamoros* as consecrating bishops.

On December 1, 2025, Bishop Avilés was named by Pope Leo XIV appointed him to Corpus Christi. He will be installed on January 28, 2026 as the ninth Bishop of Corpus Christi. ■

### BIOGRAFIA EN ESPAÑOL

EL OBISPO MARIO A. AVILÉS c.o., nació en la Ciudad de México el 16 de septiembre de 1969. Es hijo de Rafael y María Guadalupe. En 1986 ingresó a la Congregación del Oratorio de San

Felipe Neri comenzando así sus estudios para el sacerdocio en la Ciudad de México para luego terminarlos en Roma donde recibió su Licenciatura en Filosofía y Sagrada Teología en el Pontificio Ateneo Regina Apostolorum. También cuenta con una Maestría en Educación Administración y Supervisión y es Maestro Certificado en el Estado de Texas.

El 21 de julio de 1998, recibió la ordenación sacerdotal en la Basílica Santuario Nacional de Nuestra Señora de San Juan del Valle, en San Juan, Texas. Fue nombrado vicario en la parroquia de San Judas Tadeo en Pharr, Texas y en su Congregación comenzó a trabajar en las escuelas del Oratorio como miembro del Consejo de Gobierno, maestro, director y rector. También sirvió en la Congregación como vicario, secretario, tesorero y maestro de novicios.

En el año 2000 fue elegido miembro de la Diputación Permanente de la Confederación del Oratorio de San Felipe Neri y en el 2012 elegido Procurador General de la misma Confederación. De 2002–2018 fue párroco de la Iglesia Sagrado Corazón de Jesús en Hidalgo, Texas.

En diciembre de 2017 el Papa Francisco lo nombró obispo auxiliar para la Diócesis de Brownsville y fué consagrado el 22 de Febrero del año 2018 por Mons. Daniel E. Flores, *Obispo de Brownsville*, Mons. Raymundo Peña, *Obispo Emérito de Brownsville* y Mons. Eugenio Lira Rugarcía, *Obispo de Matamoros*.

En 1 diciembre de 2025, fue nombrado obispo de Corpus Christi por el Papa León XIV. ■

## COAT OF ARMS



**THE EPISCOPAL HERALDIC ACHIEVEMENT**—commonly called the bishop’s coat of arms—is composed of three parts: *the scutcheon* or shield which is the distinctive central and most important part of the design, *a motto* displayed on a scroll, and the *external ornamentation*.

The practice of design, display, study, and transmission of armorial bearings is called heraldry. While the use of various devices and symbols to identify individuals or groups dates to antiquity, the use of standardized devices which are hereditary in nature developed during the high Middle Ages. These design elements and their names come from this period.

A blazon is a formal description of the the heraldic achievement from which one familiar with the terms could reconstruct the design.

The design is described (blazoned) as if the description is being given by the bearer (from behind) with the shield being worn on the left arm. As the heraldic device is viewed from the front, the viewer must remember that the heraldic terms *dexter* (from Latin *dextera* or *right*) and *sinister* (from Latin *sinistra* or *left*) are described for the bearer; for the viewer, the directions are reversed.

By tradition in the Roman Catholic Church, the heraldic achievement the arms of bishops contain:

- ◆ a shield with its charges (*symbols*) of family, geographic, religious, or historical importance;
- ◆ a golden processional cross with one traversal bar indicating the rank of bishop which is impaled (*displayed vertically*) behind the shield;
- ◆ a green galero with twelve tassels (*six on each side, ordained 1–2–3 from the top*);
- ◆ and a motto written in black, displayed on a scroll below everything.

A bishop of a diocese exercises ordinary jurisdiction which is connected with their office. In this case, the personal arms of the Ordinary are marshalled (*displaying two coats of arms together*) with the arms of their diocese.

### BLAZON

The arms of the Diocese of Corpus Christi are a red field with three gold ciboria.

A ciborium is a liturgical vessel which holds the consecrated species of The Blessed Sacrament, the real and true presence of Jesus Christ. These consecrated hosts are the Body of Christ— *Corpus Christi*. The Diocesan arms are marshalled by *impalement per pale* (*dividing the shield in half vertically and displaying the contents of the entire shield in this area*) *dexter* (*bearer’s right/viewer’s left*).

Bishop Avilés’ personal arms are composed of a scutcheon tierced per pall reversed (*divided into three sections in an upside-down “Y” shape*).

*Dexter chief* is a field of red with a triple-towered castle, the center tower being higher and winged, all in gold (*or*), opened, and with windows in black, placed on a field of silver (*argent*) with blue waves.

This is the design of the crest of the Avilés family name traced to the kingdom of Castile in medieval Spain; for Bishop Avilés, this represents the importance of the essential virtues and unity inherent to family life.

*Sinister chief* is a field of gold (*or*) with a pattern of red roses.

The field of red roses honors the Blessed Virgin Mary in her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe which recalls the Mexican heritage of Bishop Avilés, and the miracle of the roses that our Lady used to impress her image on the tilma.

*Middle base* is a field of blue (*azure*) with three eight-pointed stars of gold (*or*).

This design is taken from the Neri family crest and used for the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, of which Bishop Avilés has been a member since the beginning of his vocation.

Bishop Avilés’ arms are impaled *per pale sinister* (*on the bearer’s left/viewer’s right of the divided shield*).

Bishop Avilés chose *Caritas Dei diffusa est in cordibus nostris* as his motto.

Translated: “*the Love of God has been poured out into our hearts*” recalls the epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans 5:5; used as the introit to Mass for the feast of Saint Philip Neri in remembrance of his mystical experience while praying in the catacombs of St. Sebastian in Rome.

The heraldic achievement is completed by the external ornaments (*processional cross of gold with one traversal bar impaled; the galero with twelve tassels in three rows, all in green; described earlier*) which are the heraldic insignia of a prelate of the rank of bishop.

## SECOND READING

*Hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit*

Romans 5:5–11

(read in English)

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

☩ The word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

Hermanos: La esperanza no defrauda porque Dios ha infundido su amor en nuestros corazones por medio del Espíritu Santo, que él mismo nos ha dado.

En efecto, cuando todavía no teníamos fuerzas para salir del pecado, Cristo murió por los pecadores en el tiempo señalado. Difícilmente habrá alguien que quiera morir por un justo, aunque puede haber alguno que esté dispuesto a morir por una persona sumamente buena. Y la prueba de que Dios nos ama está en que Cristo murió por nosotros, cuando aún éramos pecadores.

Con mayor razón, ahora que ya hemos sido justificados por su sangre, seremos salvados por él del castigo final. Porque, si cuando éramos enemigos de Dios, fuimos reconciliados con él por la muerte de su Hijo, con mucho más razón, estando ya reconciliados, recibiremos la salvación participando de la vida de su Hijo. Y no sólo esto, sino que también nos gloriamos en Dios, por medio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, por quien hemos obtenido ahora la reconciliación.

*All stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

## † GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Festival Alleluia

Rev. James J. Chepponis, MDiv, MA (b. 1956); vss. Colin Mawby (1936–2019)



☩ Al - le-lu-ia, al-le - lu-ia, al - le-lu - ia. Al - le-lu-ia, al-le - lu-ia, al - le-lu - ia.

*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.* ☩  
(cf. Jn 10:14)

## † EVANGELIO (GOSPEL)

☩ El Señor esté con ustedes.

☩ Y con tu espíritu.

☩ Lectura del santo Evangelio...

☩ Gloria a ti, Señor.

After Jesus had revealed himself to his disciples and eaten breakfast with them, he said to Simon Peter,

“Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”

Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

He then said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

*Feed my lambs, feed my sheep.*

Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him,

“Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.

He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God.

And when he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

☩ Palabra del Señor.

☩ Gloria a ti, Señor Jesús.

John 21:15–19

*The Gospel Acclamation is again sung as the book of the Gospels returns in procession to the bishop, where he reverences it. He then bestows a blessing on all present with the Book of the Gospels which the people receive under the ✠ Sign of the Cross.*



*The people are then seated for the Homily.*

## HOMILY

The Most Rev. Mario Alberto Avilés C.O.  
Ninth Bishop of Corpus Christi

*A moment of silence follows the Homily. As the celebrant stands for the Universal Prayer, the people also stand.*

† GLORIA  
TEXT: ICEL

Mass of Redemption  
Steven R. Janco (b. 1961)

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth—peace to peo-ple of—good will.— We praise You,  
we bless You, we a-dore You, we glo-ri-fy You, we give You thanks for Your great glo-ry.  
Lord—God, heav-en-ly King, O God Al-might-y Fa-ther. Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly-Be-got-ten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son—of the Fa-ther,— You take a-way the sins of the world,  
have mer-cy—on us; You take a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our—prayer.  
You are seat-ed— at the right hand of—the Fa-ther, have mer-cy—on—us.—  
For You a-lone— are the Ho-ly One,— you— a-lone are the Lord,  
you a-lone— are the Most—High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it  
in the Glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men, a-men.

† COLLECT PRAYER

♩ A - men.

*The people are seated.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING (1<sup>o</sup> LECTURA) Ezekiel 34:11–16**  
*As a shepherd tends his flock, so will I tend my sheep*  
*(read in Spanish)*

Thus says the Lord God:  
I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep.  
I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark.  
I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the foreign lands; I will bring them back to their own country and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel in the land's ravines and all its inhabited places. In good pastures will I pasture them, and on the

mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing ground.  
There they shall lie down on good grazing ground, and in rich pastures shall they be pastured on the mountains of Israel.  
I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord God.  
The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly.  
✠ Palabra de Dios.  
✠ Te alabamos, Señor.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 100:1–5  
✠ John 15:14 refrain: Alex Oldroyd  
vss. St. Meinrad Psalter

✠ We are his peo-ple, the  
sheep of his flock. Al-le-lu-ia.

Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; serve the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful song. ✠  
Know that the LORD is God; he made us, his we are; we are his people, the flock he guides. ✠  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise; Give thanks to him; bless his name. ✠  
The Lord is good: his kindness endures forever, and his faithfulness, to all generations. ✠

MASS OF INSTALLATION

SOLEMN MASS FOR THE PARTICULAR CHURCH:  
THE DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
WITH THE RITE OF CANONICAL POSSESSION

WHEREIN

THE MOST REVEREND MARIO ALBERTO AVILÉS c.o.

WILL BE INSTALLED AS

THE NINTH BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI

BY

THE MOST REVEREND JOE S. VÁSQUEZ  
ARCHBISHOP OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

IN THE PRESENCE OF

HIS MOST REVEREND EMINENCE  
CHRISTOPHE CARDINAL PIERRE  
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 · 2:00 PM

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CHURCH † PRO-CATHEDRAL FOR THE DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI

SUMMARY OF THE RITE OF CANONICAL POSSESSION

The Metropolitan archbishop typically presides over the installation of a diocesan bishop in his ecclesiastical province which takes place at the beginning of Mass. In this instance, he is joined by His Eminence Cardinal Pierre who, as an Apostolic Nuncio (*Ambassador of the Holy See*), is both the personal and official representative of Pope Leo XIV to the Church in the United States and its government.

The one presiding sits in the *cathedra*—the 'throne' of the bishop and the seat of the diocese. It is the namesake of the principal diocesan Church—the cathedral. A pro-Cathedral serves temporarily as the 'seat' and principal diocesan church while renovations are underway at Corpus Christi Cathedral.

While called a 'throne', rather than a seat of temporal power, it is "a symbol of the power of teaching, which is the power of obedience and service so that the Word of God — the truth! — may shine out among us and show us the way of life." —Pope Benedict XVI, 7 May 2005.

After greeting the people, the *bull* from the Pope (Papal 'bull' or Apostolic Letter) which appoints Bishop Avilés to lead the Diocese of Corpus Christi is read aloud. The people first give their assent by way of the acclamation, "Thanks be to God."

SUMMARY OF THE MASS AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Today's Mass (the collection of prayers and propers) is for the Particular Church: that is the Diocese of Corpus Christi and its people.

Readings drawn from options in the Lectionary for this Mass, as well as those from the Ordination of Bishops convey important themes including those of the immense love of God for His people and the imagery of the Good Shepherd.

The sung propers and other music for the Mass echoes these themes. In addition, the date of January 28 is the Memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas, a Priest and Doctor of the Church who, in the thirteenth century, authored the liturgy for the Feast of Corpus Christi that gives us some of the most beautiful and profound sacred text in all of the liturgy, some of which is incorporated by way of music, as well for this

The Bishop-Designate then shows the Apostolic Letter to the College of Consultors— a body of priests of the diocese who assist the diocesan bishop with administration of the diocese in certain areas according to Canon Law— and the Chancellor, and then to the congregation. Under Canon Law when the see is vacant (*sede vacante*), the College of Consultors and the Chancellor are to receive the letter of appointment of the new diocesan bishop (*canon 382*).

The College of Consultors inspect and approve the letter individually, with the Chancellor certifying the inspection and approval.

When this approval has taken place, the Bishop-Designate is escorted to and enthroned on the *cathedra*. At that time, His Excellency Bishop Avilés is now Bishop of Corpus Christi.

His Excellency is then greeted by various diocesan and civic representatives, including at least some of the priests, deacons, religious, consecrated, and lay people of the local Church.

Then, the Gloria in excelsis— the ancient hymn of praise expressing the joy of the Church— is sung, and thereafter, Mass continues in the usual way, with the new bishop as celebrant.

joyous occasion in the life of our Diocese.

This booklet will guide your participation throughout the Mass, with brief instruction where needed, as well as provide the sung acclamations, responses, Psalms, and hymns, as well as spoken responses and acclamations.

Holy Mother Church clearly affirms the role within worship of the entire liturgical assembly (*bishop, priest, deacon, acolytes, ministers of the Word, music leaders, choir, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and the congregation*). Within the gathered assembly, the role of the congregation is especially important.

Participation in the Sacred Liturgy must be "internal, in the sense that by it the faithful join their mind to what they pronounce or hear, and cooperate with heavenly grace." Even when listening to the various prayers and readings of the Liturgy or to the singing

of the choir, the assembly continues to participate actively as they “unite themselves interiorly to what the ministers or choir sing, so that by listening to them they may raise their minds to God.” Participation must also be external, so that internal participation can be expressed and reinforced by actions, gestures, and bodily

attitudes, and by the acclamations, responses, and singing. (*Sing to the Lord*, 2007, USCCB; cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, GIRM, et al.)

In addition, these symbols will help guide your participation:

- † Please stand (as you are able)
- ‡ Please kneel (or as is your custom)

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

(HYMNS FOR THE PROCESSION AS TIME REQUIRES)

*A fanfare is sounded.*

† **(PROCESSIONAL HYMN) All People That on Earth Do Dwell** OLD HUNDREDTH  
 TEXT: Psalm 100 Pseaumes octantetrois de David, Geneva (c. 1551)

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) with *faux-bourdon* (vs. 4) by John Dowland (1563–1626)



1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheer - ful voice;
2. The Lord, ye know, is God in - deed; With - out our aid he did us make;
3. O en - ter then his gates with praise; Ap - proach with joy his courts un - to;
4. For why? The Lord our God is good: His mer - cy is for - ev - er sure;
5. To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth a - dore,



1. Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell, Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
2. We are his folk, he doth us feed, And for his sheep he doth us take.
3. Praise, laud, and bless his name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
4. His truth at all times firm - ly stood, And shall from age to age en - dure.
5. From men and from the an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more. A - men.

† **INTROIT HYMN** LAUDA JERUSALEM  
 TEXT: cf. Rom 5:5; Psalms 81, 87, 89, 100, 102, 105, 147 Theodore Decker

arr. Alex Oldroyd



‡ Praise him Je - ru - sa - lem, Praise the Lord! Praise to God, O — Zi - on.



Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na to the Son of Da - vid.

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by his spirit which dwells in us.

Rejoice in honor of God our help; shout with joy to the God of Jacob. For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you.

He has granted peace in your borders; with the best of wheat he fills you. He sends forth his command to the earth, swiftly runs his word!

He has proclaimed his statutes and his ordinances to Israel. He has not done thus for any other nation; His ordinances he has not made known to them, Alleluia!

He fed them with the finest wheat, alleluia, and satisfied them with honey from the rock. He gave them bread from heaven, alleluia!

I have chosen David my servant, with my holy oil I have anointed him.

My hand will be with him; my arm will make him strong, No enemy shall outwit him, nor shall the wicked defeat him. I will crush his foes before him, strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and my mercy will be with him; through my name his horn will be exalted. I will set his hand upon the sea, his right hand upon the rivers.

He shall cry to me, “You are my father, my God, the Rock of my salvation.

I myself make him the firstborn, Most High over the kings of the earth.”

I will keep my faithful love for him always; with him my covenant shall last. I will establish his descendants forever, and his throne as lasting as the days of heaven.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and will be for ever, Amen.

† **INTROIT** Plainsong, mode III  
*Caritas Dei diffusa est in cordibus nostris*

Caritas Dei diffusa est in cordibus nostris, alleluia;  
 per inhabitantem Spiritum ejus in nobis, alleluia, alleluia.  
 Benedicam anima mea Domino: et omnia quæ intra me sunt, nomini ejus.

The love of God has been poured into our hearts, alleluia;  
 by his Spirit which dwells in us, alleluia, alleluia.  
 Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

## † GREETING

*When the Procession and the Introit are complete, the one who presides over the installation goes to the cathedra and greets the people.*

- ‡ In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. ‡ Amen.
- ‡ Peace be with you." ‡ And with your spirit.

*The people are invited to be seated.*

## INTRODUCTION

### RITE OF CANONICAL POSSESSION

#### READING OF THE APOSTOLIC LETTER OF APPOINTMENT

The *bull* from Pope Leo XIV (*Papal 'bull' or Apostolic Letter*) addressed to the Bishop-Designate that appoints him to lead the Diocese of Corpus Christi is read aloud.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF THE APOSTOLIC MANDATE

The prelate who presides then questions the Bishop-Designate as to his willingness to accept the call of the Holy Spirit and the pastoral governance of the people of the diocese.

*After which, when prompted, the people give their assent by way of acclamation.*

- ‡ Let us bless the Lord. ‡ Thanks be to God.

#### INSPECTION OF THE APOSTOLIC LETTER OF APPOINTMENT

The Bishop-Designate then shows the Apostolic Letter to the College of Consultors, who inspect and approve it individually in the presence of the Chancellor. The Bishop-Designate then shows it to the other bishops, priests, and deacons in attendance, and to the congregation. *During this time, sacred music sung by the choir includes:*

##### *The Spirit of the Lord*

TEXT: Isaiah 61

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor. He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord,

to give unto them a garland of ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before the nations.

Philip W. J. Stopford  
(b. 1977)

#### CERTIFICATION OF THE INSPECTION OF THE LETTER OF APPOINTMENT

When this has been done, the Chancellor of the Diocese will certify inspection and approval of the Letter of Appointment by the College of Consultors in accordance with Canon Law, and records this in the records of the Diocese.

#### SEATING OF THE BISHOP AT THE CATHEDRA

The new bishop is led to the cathedra where he is seated. At this moment, he formally takes possession of his diocese.

#### GREETING THE NEW BISHOP AT THE CATHEDRA

The new bishop is greeted by various diocesan representatives, including some of the priests, deacons, religious, consecrated, and lay people of the local Church, as well as civic representatives from the local community.

*During this time, sacred music sung by the choir includes:*

##### He Shall Feed His Flock from *Messiah*

George Friederic Handel  
(1685–1759)

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd, and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. —Is. 40:11

Come unto Him, all ye that labor, come unto Him ye that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest.

Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. —Mt. 11:28–29

Carissa Reyes, soprano

*After which, the people will be invited to stand and join in singing the Gloria in excelsis—Glory to God in the highest— a most ancient and venerable hymn by which the Church, gathered in the Holy Spirit, glorifies and entreats God the Father and the Lamb.*