



THE VALLEY CATHOLIC

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 2

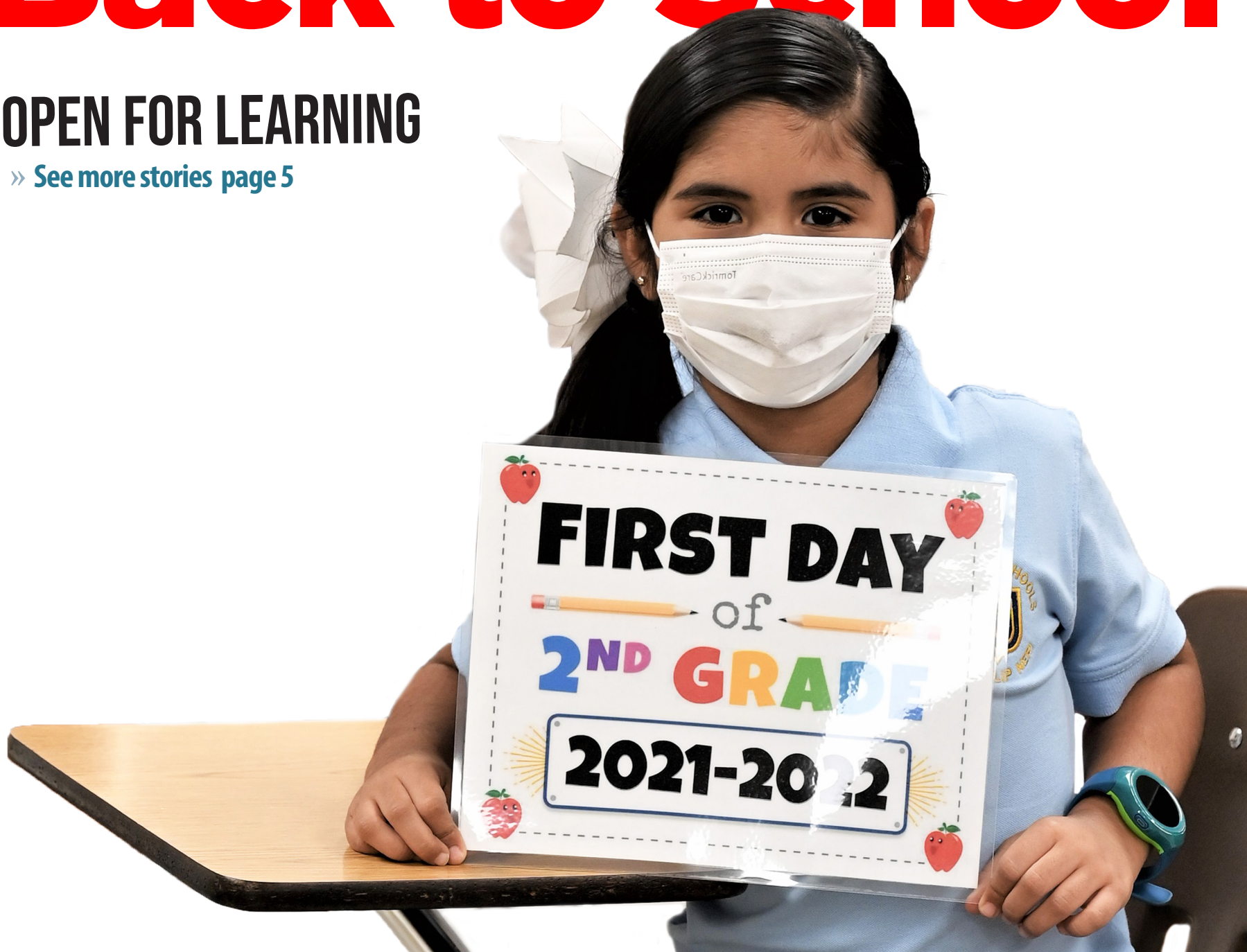
SERVING MORE THAN A MILLION CATHOLICS IN THE DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE

SEPTEMBER 2021

Back to School

OPEN FOR LEARNING

» See more stories page 5



New school year begins with full range of safety measures

By **PAUL BINZ**
The Valley Catholic

SAN JUAN — Students are back in class in the schools of the Diocese of Brownsville, and learning is forging ahead despite remnants of the pandemic.

The schools have protocols in place to maximize safety for students and teachers, said Sister Cindy Mello, superintendent of Catholic schools.

“We have had a couple of cases of the virus among the children. They’ve not been severe cases,” she said. “We’ve dealt with them.”

Other than that, she said, the new school year is “going very well.”

“Our students have returned,” Sister Mello said. “We still have some families that are a little skeptical and afraid of the virus. But I guess they’ve looked at our protocols and see that we’re trying to keep each child and teacher safe, as best we can.”

“So, so far it’s going pretty good. Some of our schools, their enrollment has even increased,” she said.

There have been few changes to last year’s full regimen of safety measures.

“The only protocol that we changed this year was from six feet to three feet,” Sister Mello said. “We kept the masks; we kept the hand-washing. We kept the Plexiglass on the desks; we didn’t remove anything. We kept our signs on

the walls as reminders.

“And we disinfect at the end of each day to get ready for the next day.”

This second year of safety measures has brought bonuses.

“We opened up our cafeterias – with protocols,” she said. “We’re trying to bring sports back to the elementary levels. Last year only high school was doing sports, being active in sports. ... But this year we said 100 percent for any school that wanted to bring back sports to their campus, with protocols.”

Sister Mello contrasted this year, with in-person learning starting on time, with last year, which began with online-only and brought back limited attendance in phases over several

months.

“Last year we began virtual, and went in-person at the end of September (2020). And each quarter we opened up the doors for someone, some child or family that wanted to bring their child back,” she said.

“We asked people to wait each quarter when they were ready to send their child back. By the end of the year, the majority of children were in the building, but we still had a few who were on virtual.

“So the teachers handled virtual and in-person at the same time, which was very difficult. But they did an excellent job to instruct the children the best that they could.”



**New Feature
for Children
Page 6**

Check each month
for a paper doll
of a different saint.



**Living
Liturgically
Page 12**

Tips for integrating
your Catholic faith
in everyday life



For video and more,
visit the Diocese
of Brownsville
on its social media pages.



Cristo presente en la Eucaristía

Queridos fieles Católicos en la diócesis de Brownsville,

A medida que comenzamos a enfocar nuestra atención, como Iglesia local, en reconstruir nuestras vidas y comunidades a raíz de la crisis de COVID, ahora es un buen momento para que pensemos en lo que hemos aprendido. Incluso en la prueba, Dios nos enseña cómo ser un pueblo más fiel y generoso. Sin duda, hemos aprendido una vez más que de alguna manera, todos somos vulnerables y que todos tenemos la responsabilidad de proteger las vidas de quienes nos rodean. También hemos aprendido que la fuerza y el ingenio humano no son suficientes para superar una crisis. Debemos ser alimentados por Dios, como lo fue Elías el profeta, con el alimento espiritual que nos ayuda a recuperar nuestras fuerzas, a perseverar y avanzar con esperanza.

En estos tiempos extraordinarios, las familias han buscado este alimento espiritual leyendo las Escrituras en casa, orando juntos por sus seres queridos, conectándose a través de internet a las misas que se celebran en sus comunidades locales y ofreciendo su comunión espiritual. Hemos podido ayudar a preparar a nuestros jóvenes para los sacramentos a través de una combinación de recursos de internet e instrucción familiar en el hogar. Aun así, muchos en la Iglesia han experimentado, con justa razón, un hambre profunda por Jesús en la Sagrada Eucaristía.

Ahora que podemos acercarnos más fácilmente a las parroquias para la celebración de la Misa, es importante que apreciemos este regalo que el Señor nos da. Al final, los recursos de Internet pueden ayudarnos en una crisis, pero no pueden reemplazar la vivencia de la Iglesia al celebrar la Eucaristía en persona. La Iglesia no es una realidad virtual, es gente, en las comunidades locales, convocada por el Señor y llamada a la comunión en Él.

»From our shepherd



Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores

Bishop of Brownsville

“
I believe that the Eucharistic Faith of the Church is at the deepest part of her life, the source, center and life of all we believe and all we do for others in and through the charity of Christ.”

Christ present in the Eucharist

«*The angel of the LORD came back a second time, touched Elijah, and ordered, “Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!” He got up, ate, and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.*» (1Kings 19, 7-8)

Dear Catholic faithful in the Diocese of Brownsville,

As we begin to focus our attention as a local Church on rebuilding our lives and communities in the wake of the COVID crisis, now is a good time for us to think about what we have learned. Even in trial, God teaches us how to be a more faithful and generous people. Surely, we have learned once again that we are all vulnerable in some way and we all bear responsibility to protect the lives of those around us. We have also learned that human strength and ingenuity is not enough to get us through a crisis. We must be fed by God, as Elijah the prophet was, with the spiritual food that helps us regain our strength, persevere, and move forward in hope.

In these extraordinary times families have sought this spiritual food by reading the Scriptures at home, praying together for their loved ones, linking through the internet to Masses being celebrated in their local communities, and offering their spiritual communion. We have been able to help prepare our young people for the sacraments through a combination of internet resources and at home family instruction. Still, so many in the Church have rightly experienced a deep hunger for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Now that we can approach the parish celebrations of Mass more easily, it is important that we appreciate this gift the Lord gives us. In the end, internet resources can help us in a crisis, but cannot replace the lived, in-person gathering of the Church to celebrate the Eucharist. The Church is not a virtual reality; it is people in local communities convoked by the Lord and called to communion in him; He feeds us at Mass. Let us pray to always hunger for this Food that only he can give. The Mass is the irreplaceable heart of the Church’s life.

In the coming months the whole Church in the United States will enter into a focused time of Eucharistic renewal and catechesis aimed at helping us all live more intensely our Catholic lives sustained by Christ himself, the “Bread that comes down from Heaven,” made present to us through the Celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice. I am sure there will be books and documents written to guide us into a deeper understanding and love of the Eucharist, and videos prepared. And hopefully in the coming months our parishes will be able to

organize Eucharistic days of catechesis with Mass and adoration.

Still, we all need to enter more deeply now into what we have already received. I think that we ourselves, here in the Rio Grande Valley, have an opportunity to witness to the love of Christ given to us in the Eucharist. If we know someone, and we all do, who has not come to Mass in a long time, or who feels confused as to why it is important, the best thing we can do is give witness to what Christ in the Eucharist has done for us, personally, and how faith in his true presence with us sustains us in hope and charity. And to invite them to this banquet the Lord prepared for us.

I believe that the Eucharistic Faith of the Church is at the deepest part of her life, the source, center and life of all we believe and all we do for others in and through the charity of Christ. And this Eucharistic faith is deeply in our people by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us share this faith and love with one another, in the joy of that same spirit.

So as a beginning of our Eucharistic renewal, I would like to invite all of us to reflect and pray about what the mystery of Jesus in the Eucharist means for us individually and as a people. And, I would like anyone who feels moved to do so to write me a short expression of what your life in the Eucharist means to you. How has the love of Jesus in the Eucharist touched your life? I know the Eucharistic Faith of the Catholics in the Valley is deep and rich. I have seen it in our people throughout the Diocese.

Write to me anything you want to say about this love that God himself has put into your heart for Christ among us in the Mass, and his Real Presence in our churches. I will read them all. And in time, and with permission, we will publish a little book that will include some of the reflections and expressions of faith and love that you have offered to the Lord. I think this will be a great source of encouragement to those who struggle with their faith. An argument does not win hearts, a life lived in union with Christ in the Eucharistic Mystery wins hearts.

In English or in Spanish, I would like to hear from school children, and teenagers, religious education students and young adults, from single men and women, young parents, parents and grandparents; anyone who wishes to express what is in their heart about Christ in the Eucharist. Let this be a moment when the people of God here in the Valley speak their faith in Christ and love for Christ, who is with us in the Eucharist.

See page 19 for details on where to send your letter.

Él nos alimenta en la Misa. Oremos para tener siempre hambre de este alimento que solo Él puede dar. La Misa es el corazón insustituible de la vida de la Iglesia.

En los próximos meses, toda la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos entrará en un tiempo de enfoque en la renovación y catequesis Eucarística, orientada a ayudarnos a todos a vivir

más intensamente nuestra vida católica sostenida por Cristo mismo, el “Pan que desciende del cielo”, hecho presente a nosotros a través de la Celebración del Sacrificio Eucarístico. Estoy seguro de que habrá libros y documentos escritos para guiarnos hacia una comprensión y un amor más profundos por la Eucaristía. También habrá videos preparados. Ojalá en los próximos meses nuestras parroquias puedan organizar jornadas eucarísticas de catequesis con misa y adoración

Aun así, todos necesitamos profundizar ahora en lo que ya hemos recibido. Creo que nosotros mismos, aquí en el Valle del Río Grande, tenemos la oportunidad de dar testimonio del amor de Cristo que se nos ha dado en la Eucaristía. Si conocemos a alguien, y todos conocemos a alguna persona que no ha venido a Misa en mucho tiempo, o que se siente confundido sobre el por qué es importante, lo mejor que podemos hacer es dar testimonio de lo que Cristo en la Eucaristía ha hecho por nosotros, personalmente, y cómo la fe en su verdadera presencia con nosotros nos

sostiene en la esperanza y la caridad, asimismo para invitarlos a este banquete que el Señor preparó para nosotros.

Creo que la fe Eucarística de la Iglesia está en la parte más profunda de su vida. Es la fuente, el centro y la vida de todo lo que creemos y todo lo que hacemos por los demás a través de la caridad de Cristo. Y esta fe Eucarística está profundamente presente en nuestro pueblo por el don del Espíritu Santo. Compartamos esta Fe y Amor entre nosotros, en el gozo de ese mismo Espíritu.


Así pues, como comienzo de nuestra renovación Eucarística, me gustaría invitarnos a todos a reflexionar y orar sobre lo que significa el Misterio de Jesús en la Eucaristía para nosotros individualmente y como pueblo. Y me gustaría que cualquiera que se sienta motivado a hacerlo me escriba una breve expresión de lo que significa para usted su vida en la Eucaristía. ¿Cómo ha tocado su vida el amor de Jesús en la Eucaristía? Sé que la Fe Eucarística de los católicos del Valle es profunda y rica, lo he visto en nuestra gente en toda la Diócesis.

Escribame lo que quiera

decir sobre este amor que Dios mismo ha puesto en su corazón por Cristo entre nosotros en la Misa, y su Presencia Real en nuestras iglesias. Leeré todas las cartas. Y con el tiempo, y con permiso, publicaremos un librito que incluirá algunas de las reflexiones y expresiones de Fe y Amor que hayan ofrecido al Señor. Creo que esto será una gran fuente de aliento para aquellos que luchan con su fe. Un argumento no gana corazones, una vida vivida en unión con Cristo en el Misterio Eucarístico, gana corazones.

En inglés o en español, me gustaría escuchar de niños y adolescentes, estudiantes de educación religiosa y jóvenes adultos, hombres y mujeres solteros, padres jóvenes, padres y abuelos; todo aquel que desee expresar lo que está en su corazón sobre Cristo en la Eucaristía. Que este sea un momento en el que el Pueblo de Dios aquí en el Valle hable de su fe en Cristo y su amor por Cristo, que está con nosotros en la Eucaristía.

Consulte la página 17 para obtener detalles sobre dónde enviar su carta.



THE VALLEY CATHOLIC

700 N. Virgen de San Juan Blvd., San Juan, TX 78589-3042
Telephone: (956) 781-5323 • Fax: (956) 784-5082

Bishop Daniel E. Flores
Publisher

Brenda Nettles Riojas
Editor

Paul Binz
Assistant Editor

Eddie Garcia
Ricardo Treviño
Content Developers

Member of
the Catholic Press Association

The Valley Catholic email:
editor@cdob.org

The Valley Catholic, a publication of the Diocese of Brownsville, is published monthly

Subscription rate
\$15 per year • \$17 outside of Texas
\$25 out of U.S.

Advertising

F. Javier Gomez (956) 442-4993	Gustavo Morales (956) 266-1527	Eduardo Saenz (956) 207-9072	Gilbert Saenz (956) 451-5416
--	--	--	--

Parishes and missions please call Paul Binz at (956) 784-5055 for church rates.

How does the love of the Eucharist impact your life?

Bishop Flores asks faithful to share personal testimony

By PAUL BINZ
The Valley Catholic

McALLEN — Bishop Daniel E. Flores has invited the faithful to write to him directly about the Holy Eucharist and tell him about the role the sacrament has in their daily lives.

Addressing the recent Pro-Life Conference Aug. 7 at Our Lady of Sorrows gym, he issued his call near the conclusion of his sermon after referencing how the Eucharist motivates good works, the work of our Lord.

“During the next few years, the bishops are going to try to organize a focus on the Eucharist in the life of the church. And this is very important,” Bishop Flores said. “One of the things I would like to do locally ... is I’m going to issue a very simple invitation to whomever among the faithful in the diocese would like to write to me and say how the Eucharist impacts your life.”

Bishop Flores called this exercise a path to drawing more Catholics back to the church.

“I want to gather these together because I think the faith of the Church here ... can be a beautiful light to attract others,” he said.

“I think if we want to attract many people who have wandered from the Church, we need to talk about why the people who do live the Eucharist daily – this fount of mercy, this fount of love that moves us to do what you do, what moves people to do what they do in the Respite Center, what moves people to do what they do in nursing homes – what moves you, which is the Christ of the Eucharist, to give a simple testimony.”

Bishop Flores’ guidelines are simple.

“It comes down to this: ... It is a question of love – how does the love of the Eucharist impact your life? In even just a few lines. So we’re going to find a way that you can connect to the Internet and write something, or maybe write me a letter, *en*

inglés, en español; no importa.”

The Diocese of Brownsville’s website, www.CDOB.org, now has a form for the faithful to send their submissions to Bishop Flores. It was activated Aug. 22 in English and Spanish versions.

Bishop Flores said the letters do not have to be long or complicated.

“It doesn’t have to be a treatise. We have treatises on the Eucharist,” he said. “We have them. St. Thomas (Aquinas) – you can’t get much better than that.”

But some of the letters might eventually be compiled in their own volume, he said.

“If we can put (them) together in a book later, we’ll do that. We’ll ask your permission first.”

The main thing Bishop Flores asked for is a response.

“*Pero yo quiero que el pueblo diga* (I want the people to have their say),” he said. “I want the faith of the Church to be heard.”



Stained-glass window museum nears completion

By PAUL BINZ
The Valley Catholic

SAN JUAN — The Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine has a new landmark neighbor. Several years in the making, the Gelman Stained Glass Museum in San Juan is set to open this fall.

With Normanesque spires and gilt mosaics on its facade, the museum will house numerous religious-themed stained-glass masterpieces from Tiffany Studios and others. These colorful works reached their zenith of

popularity in the late 19th century in Victorian structures across the United States, including churches, businesses and private homes.

The museum aspires to be “home to the most comprehensive collection of stained-glass windows in the United States,” according to its website.

The museum’s collection includes more than 140 stained-glass windows, representing “the most renowned manufacturers of 19th and 20th Century American and European stained-glass art. ... The collection consists

of works from Tiffany Studios, John LaFarge, Lamb Studios, Mary Tillinghast, and pieces from the German Munich styles by Franz Meyer and F. X. Zettler.”

“This 16,000 square foot state-of-the-art museum, replicates the Latin-cross cruciform architecture of European medieval cathedrals, providing a sacred setting for these antique stained-glass windows salvaged from deteriorating churches around the country.”

The Gelman Stained Glass Museum is tentatively scheduled to open in November. Sometime after it opens, the facility will become available to rent as a venue for weddings, baby and bridal showers, and quinceañeras.

Entry fees for the general public and hours of operation have not been released yet.

The Gelman Stained Glass Museum is located across Raul Longoria Road/Nebraska Street from the Basilica Hotel on the east side of the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan Del Valle-National Shrine complex in San Juan. The address is 411 Virgen de San Juan Blvd. For more information, visit its website at <http://gelmanmuseum.org/>.



The Gelman Stained Glass Museum in San Juan was built on a cruciform plan and with twin spires to showcase its collection of religious-themed stained glass windows from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Transitional Deacon Ordained

A step closer to the priesthood



Paul Binz/The Valley Catholic

Seminarian Genaro Garza III was ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop Daniel E. Flores during a special Mass Aug. 21 at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Brownsville.

In these photos, clockwise from top right, Bishop Flores confers the grace of the sacrament of Holy Orders during the laying on of hands. The candidate receives new vestments in preparation for his ordination. As a new deacon, he assists at the altar before the consecration. He prostrates himself in obedience and humility in the sanctuary.

Top left, Deacon Garza, who returns to St. Mary's Seminary in Houston for his final year of studies in preparation for ordination to the priesthood, receives his faculties from Bishop Flores.



"The deacon is conformed to Christ the servant, to his charity, not for himself but for the sake of the Body, for from Christ's fullness we have all received."

Bishop Daniel E. Flores

» From the desk of the Superintendent

Welcome Back!

*“Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his face continually.”*

(1 Chronicles 16:11)

By **SISTER CINDY MELLO**
Catholic Schools
Superintendent

Let us go back in time when the pandemic first began ... Everything came to a stop, schools, businesses, places of worship, and places that were considered non-essential were closed, masks were mandatory, furloughs took place, shelter in place was called by all counties in the Valley and our home life changed for all of us. The pandemic brought many difficulties to families and the most innocent that was disturbed were our students who had to transition to a new way of learning.

Now today, with renewed faith and hope we will be able to bring our students back to each campus, knowing that each school will continue to follow protocols for the well-being and safety of all on campus.

What will this new school year bring? We are still not certain of the unknown but we are certain that Our Catholic Schools have proven them-



**SISTER CYNTHIA
A. MELLO, SSD**

selves through the dedication of our principals, teachers and staff, and we are prepared to meet new challenges going forward.

Last year our students did very well on their IOWA tests as we began the year virtually and for some students they remained all year on virtual instruction. Our teachers used their ingenuity to teach their lessons to both virtually and in-person instruction which took more preparation and much effort to provide for both groups of students.

Our excellent academic program in each of our Catholic Schools remains outstanding, our Catholic identity is at the core of what we do each day and our service to others is our mission in the Church – teaching young minds and hearts, faith formation and preparing them for the needs of those around them.

Our students’ social and emotional needs will be supported and nurtured as time away from a structured environment has and will make a difference. We want to provide the missing links that have taken place for over a year to bring our students up to their levels of education and beyond.

To bring our students back on campus is a blessing for all of our schools and now more than ever, it is a time for all of us to unite as we continue this mission together.



Paul Binz/The Valley Catholic

“How many of you are excited about being back in school?” the teacher asks second-graders at Oratory School, top. In the bottom photo, middle-schoolers watch as the graphics for a presentation pop up on the screen.

Guadalupe Regional Middle School appoints new president

Special to The Valley Catholic

BROWNSVILLE — Following a search, the Board of Trustees of Guadalupe Regional School announced that Brother Edward Bergeron of the Congregation of Christian Brothers will become the school’s third president, effective Sept. 1.

Brother Bergeron is currently serving as a parish life facilitator at St. John’s Catholic Church in North Charleston, South Carolina. Current Guadalupe Regional School President

Michael Motyl has assumed a full-time position as president of St. Joseph Academy in Brownsville.

“We want to thank Michael Motyl for his 13 years of service to GRMS, 11 as president, and welcome Brother Edward to the Guadalupe family,” said Marist Brother Thomas Schady, President of the Guadalupe Board of Trustees.

With a 40-plus-year career that has successfully encompassed classroom teacher, instructor, as well as pastoral

associate, Brother Bergeron is a proven leader and mentor with extensive experience in school and church related ministry. In addition to serving as parish life facilitator the past 24 years, Brother Bergeron is a founding member and former president of the Charleston Area Justice Ministry, as well as serving as a member of the Curia and Priest Personnel Committee for the Diocese of Charleston.

“I have great confidence that Brother Edward will be a great leader to guide the school and help achieve important goals in the next decade.

The Board of Trustees and Guadalupe community are blessed to have Brother Bergeron whose experience and passion for education will contribute to the continued success of Guadalupe Regional Middle School,” Brother Schady said.

Brother Bergeron holds a bachelor’s degree in modern language (Spanish) with a minor in theology and a master’s degree in cross-cultural ministry from Maryknoll School of Theology. A long-time member of the Christian Brothers, he is passionate about the value of Catholic education and has a deep commitment to living a life of value to the greater community.



Courtesy Photo

Brother Edward Bergeron, CFC has been selected as the new president for Guadalupe Regional Middle School. Moving here from Charleston, South Carolina, Brother Bergeron has extensive experience in Catholic education, spanning four decades.

St. Joseph Academy counselor selected for national committee

The Valley Catholic

BROWNSVILLE — Vilma Wolfe, a counselor at St. Joseph Academy in Brownsville, accepted an appointment to serve on a committee of the National Associations for College Admission Counseling.

Wolfe who has more than 10 year’s experience as a school counselor was invited to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee on developing Programs and Services for College Counseling and Admission Professionals at Rural and Small-Town Schools and Colleges.

As a member of the committee, she will develop practical recommendations for creating online resources and other kinds of support for counselors, college admission staff, and students and families living and working in rural communities and small



VILMA WOLFE

towns. The resources could include professional development, networking, research, advocacy, convening, or other support.

“I am beyond proud to be able to, in a small way, contribute to this national effort, as well as to represent and bring some attention to St. Joseph Academy, Catholic Schools, and the Diocese of Brownsville,” Vilma said.

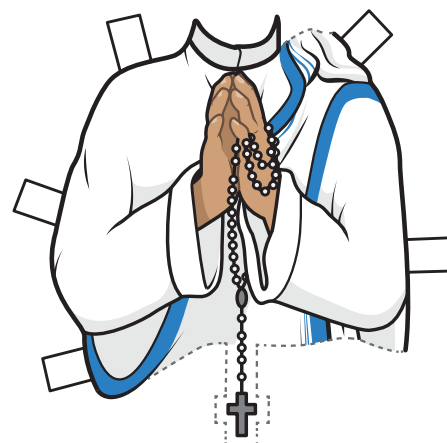
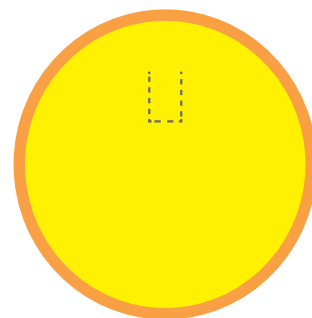
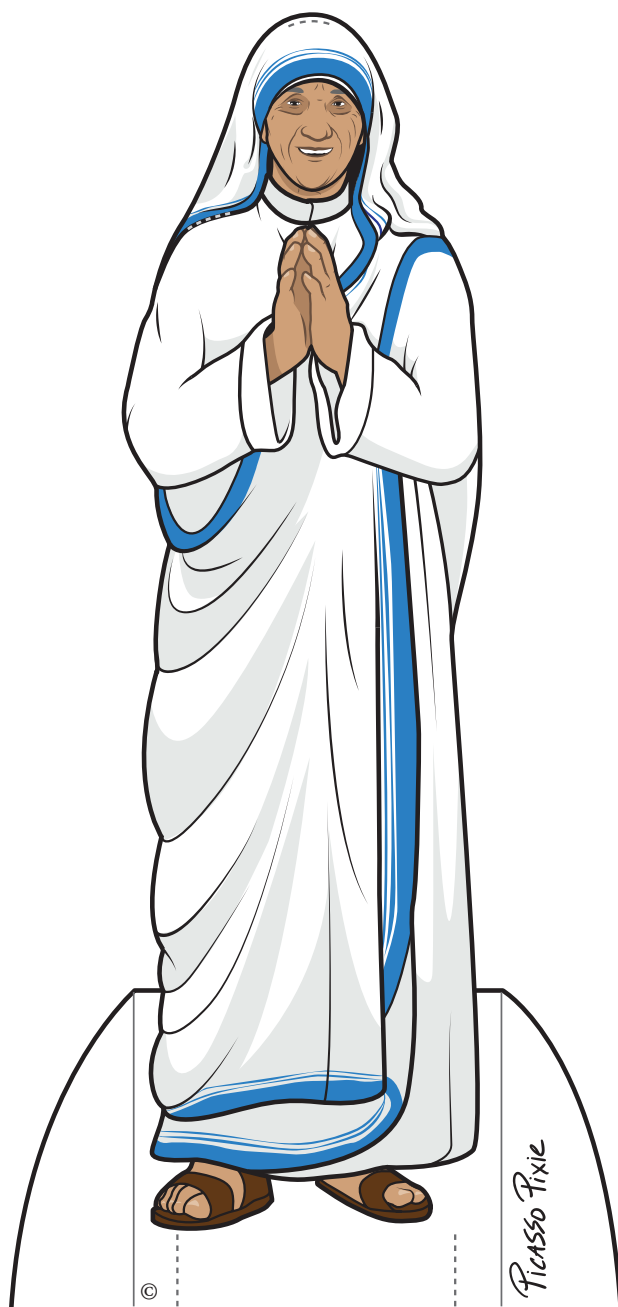
Peace begins with a Smile -St. Teresa of Calcutta

Feast Day: Sept. 5

Born: Aug. 26, 1910
in Skopje, Macedonia

Died: Sept. 5, 1997 (87)
in Calcutta, West Bengal, India

Canonized: Sept.4, 2016
by Pope Francis



Instructions:

1. Glue the paper doll section on to some card stock or the back of a discarded cereal box. (use gluestick)
2. Cut out each image, including the slits as indicated by the dotted lines.
3. Fit the pieces on to the image of the saint.

»Saint of the Month

St. Teresa of Calcutta



St. Teresa of Calcutta was born Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu into a Catholic family of Albanian ethnicity Aug. 26, 1910 in Skopje, North Macedonia, which at that time was part of the Ottoman Empire. The youngest child of Nikollë and Dranafie Bojaxhiu, she lost her father at the age of eight.

As a child, she became fascinated with the work of missionaries and received a calling to religious life at age 12 after a visit to the Church of the Black Madonna in Letnice, Kosovo.

She journeyed to Ireland in 1928 to join the Sisters of Loreto, where she learned English. She next went to India in 1929 to begin her novitiate, where she learned Bengali and taught school near her convent. She took her first religious vows in 1931, at which time she chose to be named after Thérèse de Lisieux, the patron saint of missionaries. However, since there was already a Sister Therese at the convent, she chose the Spanish spelling, Teresa. Sister Teresa took her solemn vows on May 14, 1937.

Assigned to an exclusive high school for girls in Calcutta – the city now called Kolkata – she taught history and geography there for nearly a decade, but was constantly reminded of the suffering and poverty in the city around her.

In 1946, during a journey by train to northern India for a retreat, Sister Teresa received what she described as “a call within a call. ... I was to leave the convent and help the poor while living among them.” This prompted her to give up her life with the Sisters of Loreto and set out to “follow Christ into the slums to serve him among the poorest of the poor.”

In 1950, Sister Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, a congregation dedicated to helping the poor. Volunteers flocked to her work, including former students; donations of food, clothing and other aid flooded in as well. The city government of Calcutta donated a ramshackle building to the order in 1952, which became a hospice and respite center.

Sister Teresa spent the next four decades working unceasingly for the poor – opening schools, orphanages, soup kitchens, health clinics and even a leper colony. The facilities operated by her order eventually numbered in the hundreds, spread through more than a hundred countries. As her own reputation grew, she became revered and known around the world as Mother Teresa.

Toward the end of her life, more of her efforts were devoted to global travel and soliciting support for her efforts, but she also found time to rescue children trapped in civil war-torn Beirut in 1982 and start a hospice for AIDS victims in New York City in 1985. She was honored with diverse awards ranging from the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize to the U.S. Medal of Freedom, the Jewel of India and the U.S.S.R.’s Gold Medal of the Soviet Peace Committee.

Mother Teresa died Sept. 5, 1997 in Kolkata. She was eulogized even in secular circles as one of the most famous and beloved women in the world. The Church recognized her life with a relatively prompt route to sainthood; she was beatified in 2003 and canonized on Sept. 4, 2016.

St. Teresa of Calcutta’s feast day is Sept. 5, the anniversary of her death.

Those Who **Serve: Father Robert Charlton, SS.CC**

The 'irresistible' beckoned

From international sales, the priesthood called him to service with Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary

By **R. DANIEL CAVAZOS**
The Valley Catholic

HARLINGEN — Father Bob Charlton grew up in the Catholic faith and its school systems every step along the way during his Philadelphia upbringing.

He always knew a religious life lay ahead. It could be as a missionary – or perhaps a priest – but whatever the road taken, a “communal life of being religious” would be there. The path appeared set after four years of college and over a year of theology school.

His studies, however, were buffeted the by tenor of the times. It was the 1970s when Father Charlton said many priests were leaving their vocations. He was influenced by those factors at his seminary school.

“I quit,” he recalled. “I said, ‘I’m not doing this anymore.’”

He worked in the private sector for the next few years, making a nice living in international sales for freight systems. Father Charlton recalled the lucrative salary he made and the Brooks Brother suits he wore. There was something more powerful beckoning, “an irresistible thing,” as he described it.

He wanted back into seminary school.

“The superiors in charge of the seminary welcomed me back,” he said. “They said, ‘You should have never left.’”

“

The Valley is like an island of faith. People in many parts of the country act like they’ve never heard of the gospels. Here in the Valley, people are not embarrassed to talk about it, (their faith).”

Father Bob Charlton

Return to Religious Roots

Back on track, he proceeded through his studies and training, and in 1988 was ordained as a priest in Washington D.C.

Long by that time and going back to his Philadelphia childhood, Father Charlton was anchored religiously in the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. It is a Roman Catholic religious institute of priests, nuns, and brothers, the origins going back to the French Revolution in the 1790s.

One of the Sacred Hearts’ more historical figures is Father Damien, who is best known for his dedication in caring for the victims of leprosy in Hawaii in the 1870s. As a teenager in



R. Daniel Cavazos/The Valley Catholic

Father Bob Charlton, a religious priest with the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, serves as pastor at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Harlingen. He celebrated his 50-year anniversary as a priest this summer.



Philadelphia, Father Charlton read a book about Father Damien, which dazzled him – so much so that after reading the book and being inspired, he knew “that sealed it for me.”

Father Charlton marked 50 years this summer of his association with the Sacred Hearts and its stated mission of introducing “the spirit of devotion and love in the hearts of others, talk to them about the love of God and of the benefits we have received from Jesus Christ, and of the tender devotion to our Blessed Mother.”

His first parishes as a priest were in Massachusetts, where over the years he has developed an affinity and connection to the New England region. There is another region he has come to know well – far from the Northeast – and as coincidence would have it, a Sacred Heart he would serve as a priest.

Coming to the RGV

Father Charlton arrived in Edinburg at the halfway point of the Aughts – the first decade of the 2000s. The Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Kuhn Street, just blocks from downtown Edinburg, is the religious assignment Father Charlton received in coming to the Rio Grande Valley. It was a church and parish in transition when he arrived.

Sacred Heart Parish of Edinburg was established in the post-World War II era. It has long been an anchor on the city’s east side. Its historic church building was no longer sufficient in size to house all the celebrants who wished to attend Mass. Edinburg was growing rapidly to the north and east.

Should a new parish church re-

main near downtown or relocate to where the city was growing? Under Father Charlton’s guidance, it was decided that Sacred Heart would remain at its present location and just across the street from its historic home.

“We decided to stay,” Father Charlton said of the decision, and a multiyear planning and building project that resulted in a new Sacred Heart Church being completed in 2011. “We didn’t want to be another entity to leave downtown.”

Father Charlton spent nine rewarding and spiritual years in Edinburg before being called back to Massachusetts, where he thought he would end his years of being an active priest. Then in 2018, as “God’s plan unfolds,” as he put it, Father Charlton was assigned back to the Valley.

“I got sent to Harlingen,” he said of his current ministry at Queen of Peace Catholic Church on New Combs Highway. “It was a big shock.”

Shock it may have been, but being back in the Valley meant returning to a region where congregants delight in the Gospel and speaking of their spiritual lives and faith.

“The Valley is like an island of faith,” Father Charlton said. “People in many parts of the country act like they’ve never heard of the gospels. Here in the Valley, people are not embarrassed to talk about it, (their faith).”

“The work here is different from other parts of the country,” he said. “It’s better in some ways. In Philadelphia, if you talk about your faith openly, they look at you like you have two heads. In the Valley, it’s very different in how people here are so open. “That’s the delightful part.”

»Women
en la
Frontera



**Brenda
Nettles Riojas**
*Editor of
The Valley Catholic*

He makes all things new

Back to school, back in print, new beginnings

August and September sizzle with a sense of new — new beginnings, new opportunities.

The transition away from the summer months, the approaching days of fall come infused with energy, hope and new possibilities. We can for a moment focus on what lies ahead instead of headlines plagued with realities out of our control, such as ongoing threats of a pandemic and hurricanes or the unrest in different parts of the world.

Yes, we continue to wear masks, our steps remain cautious, but we find ways to celebrate knowing the presence of God is everlasting, knowing we must be fully alive. As St. Irenaeus said, “the glory of God is a living human being; and the life of the human consists in beholding God.” So let us proceed confident the Lord is lighting our steps and making all things new.

This edition of the newspaper marks our return to print. Because of the lockdown between March and May of last year and the interruption in church attendance, printing and distribution of *The Valley Catholic* newspaper ceased after the March 2020 issue, although there was a limited print run in May. With churches closed, proper distribution of printed copies of the newspaper was impossible. Since then,

publication of *The Valley Catholic* has been mainly quarterly, and online only on the Diocese of Brownsville’s website.

While we look forward to the day when we all feel safe to return to our parishes, it is good to be back in print. We return with a new zeal to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We hope to serve as a conduit that helps connect our Catholic community by covering the life of the Church and by providing you with ideas and resources you can use on your faith journey.

Some new features include a section on living liturgically, which provides suggestions on how to observe the liturgical season at home, your domestic church. We also introduce a music playlist, which can serve as a resource to help you dive deeper into your prayer life. A song by Teresa Peterson from our Back-to-School playlist inspired the title for the column. For school-aged children, we include a paper doll of a saint. We commissioned a local artist, Jessica Treviño, to create a different one each month. Let us know what you would like to see included in future editions.

Bishop Flores invites us to focus on the Eucharist. He wants us reflect and pray about what the mystery of Jesus in the Eucharist means for us individually and as a people. Please be sure to read his letter on page 2 and

respond to his invitation.

This Back-to-School season, one which comes with anticipation, offers us as a good time to revisit our goals, perhaps make new ones for the months ahead. I am inspired by a 10-year-old, Anamaria, a fifth-grader who shared her goals recently at a Back-to-School prayer service. “I want to be the best version of myself and be a help for others.” Wow! I think this a goal we should all have on our list.

As we move ahead in these coming days and months, let us keep Anamaria’s words in mind, particularly with each of our daily encounters, making sure to honor each one. Let us also celebrate the new encounters and new opportunities that wait ahead.

Additionally, let’s use some of the energy from these fall months. While not all of us are going back to school, it doesn’t hurt to commit to learning something new. Pick up a book, read the Scriptures, form a study circle. How about adding a quiz or two to check ourselves and see how we are proceeding on our earthly pilgrimage? How often are we praying? How are we serving others? What grade do we think God would give us?

Let us remember he makes all things new.

»Family
Life



Lydia Pesina
*Director,
Family Life Office*

Tips for families

In stages of first child and school age

In Family Ministry, we teach that at every stage of the Family Life Cycle there are rewards, challenges, and spiritual tasks. The typical stages of the Family Life Cycle are: (1) Single Adult Family; (2) Establishing Family: Courtship/ Marriage; (3) First Child in Family; (4) School Age Family; (5) Adolescence and Family; (6) Letting Go/ Boomerang; (7) Empty Nest; and (8) Aging Family.

Recognizing that there are many variations in family systems due to divorce, widowhood, remarriage, blended families, intergenerational families, etc., the rewards, challenges and spiritual tasks still apply in some shape or form.

In the last column, I offered some tips to families in the Single Adult Family and the Establishing Family: Courtship/Marriage. The following are a few tips for families who are welcoming their first child, and tips for families with school age children.

In Stage 3 – First Child in Family: One of the rewards is the joy in seeing God’s creation and watching your child develop. Some of the challenges include less couple time, less money and less sleep. And some spiritual tasks that help families are to develop religious traditions and rituals.

Families with first child in your home can try out different family rituals such as: (1) Blessing on forehead/prayer to Guardian Angel; (2) beginning or continuing to have family meals (without electronics) using prayer starters such as the following, along with your own or others:

Spirit of God we thank you for your
Unlimited source of
Nourishment. Your
Daily bread fills our body
And our soul. May
You bless this food and all who share it.Amen.

May your presence abide around
Our table as we
Now share our
Daily meal. Fill us with your peace
As we fill ourselves with nourishment. We ask

You this in the name of our Lord, Jesus. Amen

Thank you for the food which nourishes
Us and for your
Enduring love which
Sustains us. May this
Daily bread remind us of
All the wonderful blessings
You provide us with. Amen.

We thank you for what we
Eat and also for what we
Drink. May we
Not only receive
Energy from this nourishment but also
Strength to live this
Day with courage
And with
Your wisdom. Amen.

Today we ask for all who
Hunger. May it be
Us who not only
Receive this daily bread, but also
Share it with others. May this
Daily coming together
And breaking bread unite us in
Your love. Amen.

Forgive us!
Rejoice with us!
Inspire us! As we
Dedicate this meal and
All we do today in
Y our name, Amen.

Son of God,
And savior of all
Thank you for your
Unlimited blessings. May we be
Renewed this
Day in mind and spirit
As we share this meal in
Your name. Amen

(3) Celebrate anniversary of Baptism
(sample Blessing Prayer in Loyola Press
website).

In Stage 4 - School Age Family: One of the rewards is sharing tasks in the home. One of the challenges is being primary religious and sexuality educators and one of the spiritual tasks is to pass on the faith to children through traditions, rituals, prayers and stories. Families with School Aged Children: create “Family Rules.”

A good resource is Family Rules: Positive Parenting with a Plan by Dr. Matthew Johnson in which parents write the family rules, and once written, all members of the family are to abide by them, including the parents. When someone breaks a rule, they must take a “Good Habit” card and do what the card states within 10 minutes.

Presently, our daughter and two sons are living with us. We have adapted the Family Rules to creating Good Habit Cards we keep in a box, and our eight-year-old grandson Elian needs to do the item on the next card in the box when he breaks a rule or disobeys.

Our cards include: (1) Sweep the kitchen floor. (2) Wash and dry kitties’ food and water bowls. (3) Wipe oven door and dishwasher door with Windex. (4) Write a note to your Mom or Dad to say you love them. (5) Clean mirrors in both bathrooms with Windex. (6) Pray one “Our Father” and one “Hail Mary” at “Jesus Space” (Family Altar). (7) Clean window in dining room with Windex. (8) Write a thank you note to a relative. (9) Dust furniture in living room. (10) Read a chapter from Children’s Bible out loud. (11) Wash and dry blankets needing wash. (12) Write a note to your grandfather to say you love him. (13) Dust all pictures in house with Swiffer. (14) Read a book out loud. (15) Clean microwave inside and out. (16) Write a note to your grandmother to say you love her. (17) Organize play area. (18) Take trash bag from kitchen to outside trash bin. (19) Organize arts and crafts supplies.

These few tips from Family Ministry and other tips to follow in the next column are tidbits to be shared, tried or reflected upon. Blessings.

»Making Sense of Bioethics



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk
*Priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass.
 Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.
 See www.ncbcenter.org*

Revolutionary Acts: Marriage, raising a family

Young people today experience various pressures and expectations that can make them anxious. In a recent essay, Professor Timothy P. O’Malley, of Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life, crisply describes some of the over-the-top pressures that graduating college students are likely to encounter in commencement addresses:

“Notre Dame students are told that their degree is not exclusively an accomplishment earned through the completion of credit hours but a pledge to change the world. They are charged by a commencement speaker to go cure cancer, secure a spot on the Supreme Court, end political polarization and corruption, and renew communities on the margins through being a transformative teacher.... In other words, the bar of anxiety is raised. The future is presented to these students as a series of endless accomplishments that they must complete to be judged as worthy by their alma mater.... No wonder students get drunk and hook up on weekends to escape the impending and seemingly impossible responsibility of changing the very arc of human history before they reach the age of thirty.”

He notes that marriage and family life are seldom part of what commencement speakers at Notre Dame and other institutions of higher education propose to graduates. Students, he says, are “told, sometimes quite explicitly, to bracket out marriage and family life for the sake of their professional careers. And when

the marriages and children of prominent commencement speakers are publicly raised on the commencement platform, they are always considered a lesser accomplishment.”

Putting our human accomplishments into proper perspective can be challenging. We can be tempted, like many commencement speakers, to invert the relative order of their importance. In the face of unrelenting pressure to change the world, climb the career ladder, build a nest egg, acquire expensive homes, and travel the globe, we can easily convince ourselves that marriage and children are a hindrance.

But as we approach the end of life, we can often see with greater clarity what matters most.

I remember a chat I had with my father as he was declining in health. He had had a long career as an astrophysics professor at the University of Arizona. As we were talking about colleges, universities, and the world of academia, I mentioned how impressive his professional accomplishments had been, not only in teaching and research, but also in authoring various notable books with titles like “Radio Galaxies,” “The Catastrophic Universe,” and “Radio Astrophysics.”

“Ah, the real achievement,” he retorted, “what really matters, that would be the children.”

He underlined that the demanding intellectual work and mountains of scientific output were insignificant compared to what he deemed his “real accomplishment” — the gift of his family. After more than 50

years of marriage and raising five children he signaled what authentic satisfaction and human fulfillment had come to look like for him.

The commitments we make and faithfully fulfill are a source of stability and strength, particularly against the backdrop of life’s turbulence and uncertainty. While there are conflicts, boredom, trials, and other challenges, the consequential adventure of marriage and family life offers a fulfilling pathway toward human flourishing.

O’Malley notes that this is a narrative that young people are interested in: “They want to hear how to be happy, and they want this happiness not to be tied to their accomplishments.” They want to be able to say, “I cannot control every dimension of the future, but I can dwell with this person for the rest of my days. I can commit to a common project, to a hopeful future with this man or woman.” This is an important message for us to pass on to younger generations, especially as they commence post-university life.

In a sense, marriage and raising a family are becoming revolutionary acts in today’s world. They declare something positive and hopeful about the future and push back against the fear and insecurity that plague our human condition. They ground us in something beyond the passing security of worldly accomplishments and challenge us to a higher and more enduring goal.

»Formation for Ministry



Deacon Luis Zuniga
 Director,
 San Juan Diego
 Ministry Institute

Called and gifted: Lay ministry in the Church

Lay ecclesial ministers continue to grow in numbers as they account for the majority of pastoral ministers collaborating with the clergy (bishops, priests and deacons) at both the parish and diocesan levels in the Catholic Church today.

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “The term ‘laity’ is here understood to mean all the faithful except those in holy orders and those who belong to a religious state approved by the Church. That is, the faithful, who by Baptism are incorporated into Christ and integrated into the People of God, are made sharers in their particular way in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ, and have their own part to play in the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the World.” (CCC, #897).

The Catechism also speaks of the vocation of lay people: “Lay believers are in the front line of Church life; for them the Church is the animating principle of human society. Therefore, they in particular ought to have an ever-clearer consciousness not only of belonging to the Church, but of being the Church, that is to say, the community of the faithful on earth under the leadership of the Pope, the common Head, and of the bishops in communion with him. They are the Church.” (#899) and their participation in Christ’s (threefold ministry) priestly, prophetic, and kingly office (CCC, #901, 904, 908).

In the United States, the Conference of Catholic Bishops have written a document, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, as a resource for diocesan bishops and those responsible for guiding the development of lay ecclesial ministry. Many lay men and women have undertaken a wide variety of roles in Church ministries. Many of these roles presume a significant degree of preparation, formation and professional competence.

“Today in parishes, Catholic schools,

church institutions, and diocesan agencies, the laity serve in various ‘ministries, offices and roles’ that do not require sacramental ordination but rather ‘find their foundation in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, indeed, for a good many of them, in the Sacrament of Matrimony.’” (*Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, 2015).

In our local church, Bishop Flores in a letter to the Presbyterate regarding lay ministry formation, wrote, “The Second Vatican Council Fathers call the Apostolate of the laity a sharing in the salvific mission of the Church.” Through their baptism and confirmation, all are appointed by the Lord himself to participate in this mission (see *Lumen Gentium*, 33). All Catholics are called to a greater participation in the mission of the Church. All the more reason that we make every effort to provide adequate formation of the laity so that they are better prepared to offer their gifts in the service of the Church.”

Bishop Flores also emphasized that “the ordained ministry of the priest, of course, is essential and irreplaceable. Lay ecclesial ministers do not replace priests or diminish them in any way, but rather assist them in building up the Body of Christ by serving the people of the parish, in collaboration with deacons, religious and lay employees and volunteers. Indeed, our clergy and religious cannot and should not carry out all the work of the Church alone.”

In the Diocese of Brownsville, the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation Program is designed to prepare individuals for roles of service in their parishes and help them enhance and expand their pastoral skills and knowledge of the faith. “The fundamental objective of the formation of the lay faithful is an ever-clearer discovery of one’s vocation and the ever-greater willingness to live so as to fulfill one’s mission.” (Christifideles Laici, 58).”

Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the

Lord expresses the (United States) bishops’ strong desire for the fruitful collaboration of ordained and lay ministers who, in distinct but complementary ways, continue in the Church the saving mission of Christ for the world, his vineyard. The lay formation program provides a framework that includes courses in the four areas of the human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral dimensions of formation as outlined by the USCCB document on lay ecclesial ministry formation.

In August, 104 of our laity who finished the formation program from the different parishes representing the eight deaneries in our diocese were presented “certificates of completion.” The Certificate of Completion acknowledges their formation which includes 16 courses in two years (four semesters) and who are now eager to serve at the direction of their respective pastors in their home parishes as qualified “lay ecclesial ministers.”

Through the Diocesan San Juan Diego Ministry Institute, the lay ministry formation program will be offered again beginning in January 2022 in both English and Spanish thanks in part to the generosity of a grant from the Kenedy Memorial Foundation. An orientation is being offered for those interested in October 2021 after obtaining their pastor’s recommendation to enter the program.

The diocesan lay ministry formation program is a wonderful opportunity for the laity of our diocese who today serve the church with great dedication in many different capacities and ministries and apostolates. The laity in the church are indeed “called and gifted” and ready to serve.

Let us continue to pray that this formation program continues to be a blessing to those who take the time to prepare and receive deeper and richer theological and pastoral formation in order for them to better serve the Catholic Church in this place we call home, the Rio Grande Valley.

ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO

ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO IS THE PATRON SAINT OF...

- TEST TAKERS - STUDENTS - MENTAL HANDICAPS - AIR TRAVELERS - ASTRONAUTS - PILOTS
- AND IS INVOKED BY CHILDREN, ADULTS AND THE ELDERLY WHO ARE UNLOVED, ABANDONED OR NEGLECTED.

HIS FEAST DAY IS SEPT. 18, BUT YOU CAN
PRAY FOR HIS INTERCESSION AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR!

DAY ONE

O humble St. Joseph of Cupertino, help me especially in the decisive moments of this examination, protect me from forgetfulness and disturbing anxiety which often debilitates me. You struggled with forgetfulness and anxiety. I implore you to pray for me that I may receive the grace to calmly and thoughtfully take this examination and for these my intentions (mention your intentions here...). Amen.

DAY FOUR

O holy St. Joseph of Cupertino, you were born into poverty and a very difficult family situation. You were raised in a loveless family that thought very little of you. I pray for everyone who has experienced such a loveless family life. May I learn to see the value that every individual has in God's eyes. I pray especially for (mention your intentions here...). Amen.

DAY SEVEN

O humble St. Joseph of Cupertino, your gift of levitation during prayer made you the patron of air travelers, pilots and astronauts alike. I pray that all travelers may reach their destinations safely. I pray especially for (mention your intentions here...). Amen.

DAY TWO

O holy St. Joseph of Cupertino, you put your intellectual shortcomings in the hands of God. In doing so, you were able to pass your exams and become a priest against all odds. I pray for all those struggling with exams. May they try their best and put the rest into the hands of God with the knowledge that anything is possible with God. I pray especially for (mention your intentions here...). Amen.

DAY FIVE

O humble St. Joseph of Cupertino, you were an unwanted child because your father died before you were born. Even your own mother thought you were worthless. I pray, through your intercession, for all unwanted children. May they come to know they were born because of God's love for them. I pray especially for (mention your intentions here...). Amen.

DAY EIGHT

O holy St. Joseph of Cupertino, any mention of anything holy would often cause you to levitate in ecstasy and love of God. Help me to be holy like you! I implore that you show me how to grow in the understanding of God and the saints that you had. I pray also for (mention your intentions here...). Amen.

DAY THREE

O humble St. Joseph of Cupertino, you suffered greatly because you had difficulty learning. I pray, through your intercession, for all those who have mental disabilities and those who struggle at school. May they take comfort in your story and your faith in God. I also pray for (mention your intentions here...). Amen.

DAY SIX

O holy St. Joseph of Cupertino, you struggled to control your anger and frustrations as a child. I pray for all those who struggle to control and express their emotions and for those who have a bad temper. Help them to overcome their sins of anger. I pray especially for (mention your intentions here...). Amen.

DAY NINE

O humble St. Joseph of Cupertino, when you levitated during prayer, you were only able to come back down to the ground when you were ordered to do so by your superior. Help me, that I may grow in love and obedience to the Church and her teachings. I pray also for (mention your intentions here...). Amen.

DAILY CLOSING PRAYER

O humble St. Joseph of Cupertino, you were favored by God in overcoming the difficulties and worries of studies and examinations. Intercede for me to the Holy Spirit that my mind and memory may be strengthened in the pursuit of God's wisdom. Help me to offer God my very best work and help me to grow in knowledge and humility. Everything that I try to learn in life will be offered in service to God.

St. Joseph of Cupertino, Pray for me.

Our Lady of Good Studies, Pray for me.

Holy Spirit, Enlighten me!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

"THE FLYING FRIAR"

LIVING LITURGICALLY

What does Living Liturgically mean to you?

Living Liturgically to me is more than just believing in our Lord and Savior and following his ways. It's integrating our Catholic faith into everyday aspects of our life.

How did you start Living Liturgically with your family?

About four years ago during Advent my family started to get together on Sundays to light the candles on our Advent wreath and pray together. Then my son bought me *The Catholic All Year Compendium* book and it continued bringing the joy of those Advent Sunday gatherings into our everyday life.

What feast day are you looking forward to celebrating the most in September?

We plan on throwing a birthday party to celebrate the Nativity fo the Blessed Virgin Mary (Sept. 8th). My grandchildren love baking so it adds more meaning to something we already love doing together.

What fruits have you seen within yourself and your family?

I have noticed that our liturgical living has expanded beyond our immediate family. I have seen our extended family ask to join us more frequently, as well as grow in their curiosity about the Catholic faith.

Any tips or tricks on how a family can start on this journey?

As mentioned the book *The Catholic All Year Compendium* really helped me get my family started. I would also suggest starting with one thing and then looking at how to be more intentional with the things you already do as a family.

- Sylvia Garcia,
Holy Spirit Parish, McAllen



FEAST OF STS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

Feast day: Sept. 29

RECIPE: ANGEL FOOD CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup sifted cake flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cups (about 12) egg whites
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. almond extract
- 3/4 cup sugar

DIRECTIONS

1. Sift flour and 3/4 cup sugar together four (4x) times; set aside.
2. Beat egg whites with cream of tartar, salt, and extracts until stiff, not dry, until peaks are formed. Lightly fold in remaining sugar, 2 two (2) tablespoons at a time.
3. Gently fold in until blended after each addition, sift about four (4) tablespoons of the flour mixture at a time over meringue. Carefully slide batter into an ungreased 10-inch tube pan, turning pas as batter is poured.
4. Cut through the batter with a knife or spatula to break large air bubbles.
5. Bake at 350 degrees F. about 45 minutes, or until the cake tests done.
6. Immediately invert the pan and cool the cake completely.
7. Remove from pan as directed for sponge type cakes.

Tube pan must be used.

Cool by inverting the tube pan on a solid surface.

Once the cake is cooled, flip it back to the right side up. Run a flexible, thin knife around both the center tube and the outer edge of the pan.

Use the tube to pull the cake out of the pan and cut the bottom free.

Invert the cake onto a serving plate and twist the tube to remove it completely.



ST. MICHAEL PRAYER

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL,

DEFEND US IN BATTLE. BE OUR

PROTECTION AGAINST THE

WICKEDNESS AND SNARES OF THE

DEVIL. MAY GOD REBUKE HIM WE

HUMBLY PRAY; AND DO THOU, O

PRINCE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST, BY

THE POWER OF GOD, CAST INTO HELL

SATAN AND ALL THE EVIL SPIRITS,

WHO PROWL THROUGH THE WORLD

SEEKING THE RUIN OF SOULS.

AMEN.

Scan. Listen. Pray.

#CDOBMonthlyPlaylist

A resource to help
you dive deeper into
your prayer life.



Relevant Radio switches from Spanish to English programming on 88.1/88.9

The Valley Catholic

HARLINGEN — Relevant Radio stopped broadcasting its Spanish programming in the United States in May, including here in the Rio Grande Valley on two FM stations formerly owned by the Diocese of Brownsville.

Originally prompted by requests from the U.S. Bishops, “Relevant Radio en Español” was launched to broadcast in Spanish as a form of evangelization to Hispanics in the United States.

In making the change, Relevant Radio stated that its internal research showed that its English audience has a large and growing Hispanic listener population that can be better served with a strong presence on English-language stations.

May 14 marked the final original broadcasts of Relevant Radio en Español. The seven stations that broadcast Relevant Radio en Español, which included KHID-FM, 88.1, and KJFF-FM, 88.9, switched to Relevant Radio English programming on May 17.

The stations' history dates back to the formation in 1983 of RGV Educational Broadcasting, Inc., a

nonprofit organization and a subsidiary of the diocese. KMBH-FM began broadcasting from Harlingen-San Benito in 1991, but because it was licensed only as a low-power station, a second diocesan radio station, KHID, began transmitting from McAllen-La Homa in 1992 in order to reach more listeners in the Upper Valley. In 1995, KMBH-FM changed its call letters to KJFF to end confusion with television station KMBH, also owned by the diocese at that time, and to honor the late Bishop John Joseph Fitzpatrick, under whose direction these media enterprises began. The radio stations aired National Public Radio programming in the Valley for decades.

Immaculate Heart Media, Inc., doing business as Relevant Radio, purchased the two radio stations from the diocese in May 2018.

Relevant Radio states its mission as bringing Christ to the world through the media, and broadcasts coast-to-coast on 186 owned and operated and affiliate stations. Programming can also be heard worldwide via streaming audio at www.relevantradio.com and on the free Relevant Radio mobile app.

5 WAYS TO PRAY DAILY AS A BUSY PERSON

Life is hectic. There is no sugar coating that at all. Everyone is constantly going and some of us might consider it a miracle to get a meal in during all the running around that occurs during the day. As a wife, mother, and full-time student, sometimes the world can take over with its priorities and deadlines leaving us feeling accomplished in our worldly obligations. But what about our spiritual obligations?

As a mother, my schedule revolves around my family, which I think many parents can agree on. So finding the time to do something can be challenging at times, even prayer.

I haven't always been perfect in my prayer life but since getting married and having my son, I have relied so much on God and the intercession of Our Blessed Mother to get me through the more trying days.

I've decided that I want to share with you five ways that I incorporate prayer into my daily life as a busy person.

by Amy Lee Lerma
Sacred Heart Church, Elsa

1. START EACH DAY WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

We've probably heard this countless times but there is something so comforting about taking a deep breath and inviting Christ to start the day with you that our heavenly Father has blessed you with.

2. BLESS YOUR FOOD

When I have a meal, I ask God for the food that I have to be blessed as well as for it to nourish me and my family. During this prayer, I usually lift up in prayer those that are less fortunate and pray that God continues to provide for them.

3. GET SOME FRESH AIR

Even if it is just for a few minutes, go outside and breathe in God's creation. Go for a walk, run, hike or explore a new space and clear your head. Sometimes we get so bogged down with the world around us that we forget to take some time to hit pause and meditate on God's great glory.

4. PRAY WHILE DOING CHORES.

While some might think that prayer is a chore, I prefer to use that otherwise mundane time to be doubly productive. Something that helps me is praying an Our Father or Hail Mary while I take care of a chore whether it be taking out the trash, washing dishes, cooking, etc.

5. FINDING DAILY HAPPINESS

Being able to reflect back on your day and while it might have been lazy, busy, hectic, uneventful or really any type of day, it is great practice to find at least one thing that made you smile. Remember, God is with us throughout our days and while we might be doing life, he never leaves or forsakes us. He blesses us even when we don't see it right away.

»The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for September

An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

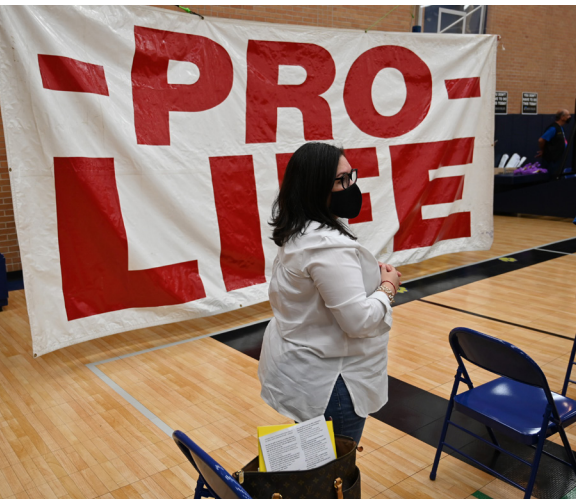


Pro-Life Conference



Paul Binz/The Valley Catholic

The Diocese of Brownsville's Pro-Life Conference filled the school gymnasium at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Aug. 7 in McAllen. Bishop Daniel E. Flores and Auxiliary Bishop Mario A. Avilés were keynote speakers at the conference that featured presentations, prayer, live music and fellowship. Featured guest Patricia Sandoval, pro-life activist and author, recounted her earlier life marked by three abortions and a descent into depression, drug use and homelessness, followed by spiritual renewal, forgiveness, love and hope. At top left, she tells part of her story to the crowd. At left, Father Derlis Garcia, director of the Pro-Life Apostolate, emceed the conference. At lower right, Sandoval is greeted by an admirer. Booths offered balloons and pro-life themed shirts and accessories, below center. At the end of the conference, Bishop Flores blessed those attending after urging all to persevere in the work of protecting life.



Catholic Scouting Committee holds first Adult Day of Reflection

Special to The Valley Catholic

EDINBURG — Adult scouters from across the Rio Grande Valley gathered Aug. 14 at the Newman Catholic Student Center in Edinburg for a day of prayer, fellowship, and reflection on Scouting as youth ministry.

The first-time event, sponsored by the Diocese of Brownsville Catholic Committee on Scouting, featured presentations by nationally known

youth ministry speaker Angel Barrera from the Center for Ministry Development. Barrera challenged the audience of Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, committee members and other volunteer scouters to look upon themselves as youth ministers and upon Scouting as a privileged means of evangelizing youth and families for Christ. Using both Sacred Scripture and lived experience, Barrera focused on the importance of accompanying youth and walk-

ing with them on their journey towards adulthood. A father of five, Barrera is just beginning the journey of Scouting with his children.

The day concluded with Mass celebrated by Father Joe Luis Hernandez. Each participant received a patch created by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and blessed by Father Hernandez proclaiming that Scouting is youth ministry.



Notice of Non-discriminatory Policy as to Students in Catholic Schools

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Brownsville exist primarily to form community of faith, in which students, faculty and parents experience community, worship and a deep concern for the needs of the total Church.

The Catholic schools in the Diocese admit students of any sex, race, color, nationality and ethnic origin.

This announcement is called "Notice of Non-Discriminatory Policy as to Students" and is in compliance with Revenue Procedure 75-50, which established Guidelines and Record Keeping Requirements for determining whether private schools have racially non-discriminatory

policies with respect to students and faculty members.

The following schools in the Diocese of Brownsville endorse this non-discriminatory policy: Incarnate Word Academy, Brownsville, Texas, St. Mary's School, Brownsville, Texas, Saint Joseph Academy, Brownsville, Texas, Guadalupe Regional Middle School, Brownsville, Texas, St. Anthony's School, Harlingen, Texas, San Martin De Porres School, Weslaco, Texas, St. Joseph School, Edinburg, Texas, Our Lady of Sorrows School, McAllen, Texas, Immaculate Conception School, Rio Grande City, Texas, Oratory Academy and Athenaeum, Pharr, Texas, and Juan Diego Academy, Mission, Texas.



For video, photos and more follow
Catholic Diocese of Brownsville

¿Cómo impacta el amor de la Eucaristía en su vida?

El obispo Flores pide a los fieles que compartan su testimonio personal

By PAUL BINZ
The Valley Catholic

McALLEN — El Obispo Daniel E. Flores ha invitado a los fieles a escribirle directamente sobre la Sagrada Eucaristía y contarle sobre el papel que tiene el sacramento en su vida diaria.

En la reciente Conferencia Pro-Vida el 7 de agosto en el gimnasio de la escuela Our Lady of Sorrows, hizo su llamado cerca del final de su sermón después de hacer referencia a cómo la Eucaristía motiva las buenas obras, la obra de Nuestro Señor.

“Durante los próximos años, los obispos van a organizar un enfoque sobre la Eucaristía en la vida de la Iglesia. Y esto es muy importante”, dijo el obispo Flores. “Y una de las cosas que me gustaría hacer a nivel local ... es que voy a emitir una invitación muy simple a todos los fieles de la diócesis que quieran escribirme y decirme cómo la Eucaristía impacta su vida”.

El Obispo Flores llamó a este esfuerzo un camino para atraer a más católicos a la Iglesia.

“Quiero juntarlos porque creo que la fe de la Iglesia aquí ... puede ser una hermosa luz para atraer a otros”, dijo.

“Creo que si queremos atraer a muchas personas que se han alejado de la Iglesia, tenemos que hablar sobre por qué las personas que viven la Eucaristía a diario, esta fuente de misericordia, esta fuente de amor que nos mueve a hacer lo que tú haces, lo que mueve a las personas a hacer lo que hacen en el Centro de Descanso, lo que mueve a las personas a hacer lo que hacen en los asilos de ancianos, lo que los mueve a usted, quien es el Cristo de la Eucaristía, a dar un testimonio sencillo”.

Las pautas del Obispo Flores son simples.

“Todo se reduce a esto:... Es una cuestión de amor, ¿cómo impacta el amor de la Eucaristía en tu vida? Incluso en unas pocas líneas. Así que vamos

a encontrar una manera de que puedas conectarte a Internet y escribir algo, o tal vez escribirme una carta en inglés, en español; no importa.”

El sitio web de la Diócesis de Brownsville, www.CDOB.org, ahora tiene un formulario para que los fieles envíen sus cartas al Obispo Flores. Se activó el 22 de agosto en versiones en inglés y español.

El Obispo Flores dijo que las cartas no tienen por qué ser largas ni complicadas.

Consulte la página 19 para obtener detalles sobre dónde enviar su carta.





Immaculate Conception Cathedral

Gift Shop and Museum



The source for Catholic Religious Articles sure to enhance your spiritual journey!

Bibles, Missals & Rosaries
Spiritual Reading Prayer Cards & DVD's

1218 E. Jefferson Street, Brownsville TX 78520 | 956-546-3178



Noche de SANACIÓN y DIVINA MISERICORDIA

Night of Healing and Divine Mercy

Únase a nosotros en línea todos los ultimo sábado del mes en la Basilia de Nuestra Señora San Juan del Valle en San Juan, Texas a las 6:30 PM

Join us online every last Saturday of the month from the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle, San Juan, Texas at 6:30 PM

with **Msgr. Juan Nicolau, Ph.D** leading us in prayer

www.olsjbasilica.org

El Papa: Vacunarse es un acto de amor

Papa Francisco y obispos de América promueven vacuna contra COVID-19

Por **WALTER SÁNCHEZ SILVA**
ACI Prensa

VATICANO — El Papa Francisco y obispos de Estados Unidos y América Latina se unieron a una campaña que promueve la vacunación contra el coronavirus.

La campaña, en tres idiomas, es una iniciativa del AD Council, una organización estadounidense sin fines de lucro que produce y promueve anuncios de servicio público en representación de diversos patrocinadores, que incluyen a organizaciones y agencias del gobierno de Estados Unidos.

Entre las campañas de AD Council están la “Conciencia sobre el autismo” que permite conocer mejor esta discapacidad y ayudar a quienes la tienen; “El amor no tiene etiquetas” que promueve la “aceptación e inclusión de las personas por raza, religión, género, orientación sexual, edad y habilidades”; y otra que alienta la adopción de adolescentes llamada “Adopción de hogares temporales”, que ha permitido que más de 800 mil tengan padres adoptivos desde 2004.

“Gracias a Dios y al trabajo de muchos, hoy tenemos vacunas para protegernos del COVID-19”, afirma el Papa Francisco en un video de AD Council, difundido el 18 de agosto.

“Ellas traen esperanza para acabar con la pandemia, pero solo si están disponibles para todos y si colaboramos unos con otros”, agrega.

En el video también aparece Mons. José Gomez, Arzobispo de Los Ángeles y presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, que recuerda que “la terrible pandemia del coronavirus ha



El Papa Francisco aparece en un video para una campaña publicitaria que promueve las vacunas COVID-19 en las Américas.

causado enfermedad, muerte y sufrimiento al mundo entero”.

“Que Dios nos conceda la gracia de afrontarla con la fuerza de la fe, asegurando que las vacunas estén disponibles para todos, para que todos podamos vacunarnos”, agrega el Prelado nacido en Monterrey (México).

En una reciente declaración, la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles precisó que no dará exenciones religiosas a los fieles que no desean recibir la vacuna contra el coronavirus.

En Estados Unidos varios obispos se han pronunciado a favor y en contra de las exenciones. En ese sentido, los obispos del estado de Colorado recordaron que no existe en la Iglesia norma alguna que obligue a los católicos a vacunarse, pero precisaron que seguirán alentando a los fieles a “mantenerse sanos y seguros” ante la pandemia.

En el video también aparece el Cardenal Carlos Aguiar Retes, Arzobispo de México,

quien señala que “a medida que preparamos un futuro mejor, como comunidad global interconectada, queremos brindar esperanza a todos sin exclusión”. “Del Norte al Sur de América apoyamos la vacunación para todos”, resalta.

Por su parte, el Cardenal Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga dice en el video que “aún tenemos mucho por aprender sobre este virus, pero una cosa es segura: las vacunas autorizadas funcionan y están aquí para salvar vidas, son clave para un camino de sanación personal y universal”. El Purpurado es Arzobispo de Tegucigalpa (Honduras) y miembro del C6, el Consejo de Cardenales que colabora con el Papa en la reforma de la curia del Vaticano.

El Cardenal brasileño Claudio Hummes destaca en el video que “los heroicos esfuerzos de los profesionales de

la salud nos han ofrecido vacunas seguras y efectivas para proteger a toda la familia humana”.

“Vacunarse es una opción de amor por todos, especialmente los más vulnerables”, añade.

“La vacunación nos ayuda a proteger a los más indefensos. Nuestra decisión de vacunarnos afecta a otros. Es una responsabilidad moral, un acto de amor para toda la comunidad”, asegura el Cardenal Gregorio Rosa Chávez, Obispo Auxiliar de San Salvador (El Salvador).

Mons. Miguel Cabrejos, Arzobispo de Trujillo (Perú) y presidente del CELAM, refiere en el video que “estamos unidos, Norte, Centro y Sur de América Latina y el Caribe, para promover y apoyar la vacunación de todos y todas”.

“Les animo a actuar responsablemente como miembros de la gran familia humana, procurando y protegiendo nuestra salud integral y la vacunación universal”, agrega.

El Papa Francisco también dice en el video que “vacunarse con vacunas autorizadas por las autoridades competentes es un acto de amor. Y ayudar a que la mayoría de la gente lo haga es un acto de amor. Amor a uno mismo, amor a los familiares y amigos, amor a todos los pueblos”.

“El amor es también social y político, hay amor social y amor político, es universal, siempre desbordante de pequeños gestos de caridad personal capaces de transformar y mejorar las sociedades”, afirma el Papa.

El Santo Padre resalta que “vacunarse es un modo sencillo pero profundo de promover el bien común y de cuidarnos unos a otros, especialmente los más vulnerables”.

“Le pido a Dios para que cada uno pueda aportar su pequeño grano de arena. Su pequeño gesto de amor. Por más pequeño que sea el amor siempre es grande. Aportar esos pequeños gestos para un futuro mejor”, concluye el Papa Francisco.

ARE YOU A COLLEGE STUDENT LOOKING FOR A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY?

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

newman
Catholic Student Center

1615 W Kuhn St,
Edinburg, TX
(Across from UTRGV)
956-383-0133

Text-to-Join
NEWMANEDINBURG to 84576

[f](#) [i](#) [@newmanedinburg](#)

Pueblo TIRES & SERVICE

THINK TIRES... THINK PUEBLO!

YOUR FAMILY CAR CARE CENTER

VISIT US AT SHAMPOOZIE.COM

Pueblo TIRES & SERVICE

Print this coupon or refer to #17-A-COUOL. Offer good at all Pueblo Tires locations through 10/31/2021. Not valid with any additional coupons or special offers. Coupon applies to most vehicles. Coupon not valid for Commercial Accounts. Chassis lubrication only applied if necessary for oil change process. Oil recycling fees and labor not included. Tax not included. See store for details and restrictions. Offer not valid at Total Lube (#14) or Alice (#11) locations.

Standard oil change & filter

\$21.99

Includes FREE 4-tire rotation! Install new filter! Refill up to 5 quarts motor oil! Lubricate chassis!*

Pueblo TIRES & SERVICE

Print this coupon or refer to #17-A-COUWH. Offer good at all Pueblo Tires locations through 10/31/2021. Not valid with any additional coupons or special offers. Coupon applies to most vehicles. Coupon not valid for Commercial Accounts. Inspection and alignment service times may vary by location. Tax not included. No cash value. See store for details.

\$10 OFF WHEEL ALIGNMENT

Inspect vehicle's steering and suspension! Align vehicle to manufacturer's specifications!

El Papa a los jóvenes: 'Poner en primer lugar la llamada de Cristo'

Por **BLANCA RUIZ**
ACI Prensa

VATICANO — Tras el rezo del Ángelus, el Papa Francisco saludó a los numerosos grupos de jóvenes presentes en la plaza de San Pedro, que se encontraban con diversos grupos pastorales con los que han compartido unos días durante el verano.

“Muchos de vosotros habéis tenido la experiencia de un largo camino juntos. Que esto os ayude a caminar en la vida sobre el camino del Evangelio”, aseguró el Papa Francisco.

Las palabras del Papa Francisco a los jóvenes son frecuentes. El 18 de agosto, durante la audiencia general, el Papa Francisco animó a los jóvenes a “poner en primer lugar la llamada de Cristo”.

“A vosotros, queridos jóvenes, al construir vuestro futuro poned siempre en primer lugar la llamada de Cristo”, fueron las palabras del Santo Padre.

También el 12 de agosto el Papa Francisco tuvo unas palabras para los más jóvenes.

En ese día se celebraba el Día Internacional de la Juventud, una iniciativa de las Naciones Unidas,



CNS photo/Vatican Media

El Papa Francisco saluda a la multitud mientras dirige el Ángelus desde la ventana de su estudio con vista a la Plaza de San Pedro en el Vaticano el 22 de agosto de 2021.

que en el año 2021 se conmemoraba bajo el lema “Transformar los sistemas alimentarios: Innovación juvenil para la salud de los seres humanos y del planeta” que destacó que “el éxito de ese esfuerzo mundial que no se logrará sin la participación significativa de los jóvenes”.

Con motivo de esa jornada, el Papa Francisco destacó el importante papel de los jóvenes del mundo para ayudar concretamente a los más necesitados.

Así lo indicó el Santo Padre en un mensaje enviado a través de su cuenta oficial de Twitter @

señaló también que los jóvenes tienen un “espíritu innovador” con el cual es posible realizar “el sueño” en el que las personas más necesitadas reciban con abundancia “el pan, el agua, las medicinas y el trabajo”.

“Con la ayuda de los jóvenes y de su espíritu innovador podemos realizar el sueño de un mundo en donde el pan, el agua, las medicinas y el trabajo fluyan en abundancia y lleguen primero a los más menesterosos”, se lee en español en esta red social del Papa.



MONTALVO INSURANCE AGENCY

Ramon Montalvo, III C.I.C.

Toll Free: 888-404- 6669
Phone: (956) 968-5521
Fax: (956) 969-9198
Email: ramon@montalvoinsurance.com
www.montalvoinsurance.com
208 S. Texas Blvd Weslaco, TX 78596



¿Cómo ha tocado tu vida el amor de Jesús en la Eucaristía?

El Obispo Daniel E. Flores nos invita a todos a reflexionar y orar sobre lo que significa el Misterio de Jesús en la Eucaristía para nosotros individualmente y como pueblo. “Quisiera que todo aquel que se sienta motivado a hacerlo me escriba una breve expresión de lo que significa para usted su vida en la Eucaristía. ¿Cómo ha tocado tu vida el amor de Jesús en la Eucaristía?

Puede enviar su carta a la siguiente dirección o enviarla electrónicamente a través del formulario en línea a:

<https://www.cdob.org/eucharist/>

The Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores
Diocese of Brownsville
1910 University Boulevard
Brownsville, Texas 78520
ATTN: What the Eucharist Means to Me

Por favor no olvide incluir su nombre, dirección, correo electrónico, número de teléfono, nombre de la parroquia y ciudad.

South Texas' Premier Garage Door Services Company

1801 MOZELLE ST
PHARR, TX, 78577

CALL US
956-782-7373
1-800-429-3832

EMUNIZ@GGDSTX.COM

Do you need to spruce up your home or are you looking into adding accessories to your garage door? Stop by our office and allow our knowledgeable sales team to help you out.

Judge blocks Texas order stopping transportation of migrants

Amicus brief filed by Catholic Charities RGV

From staff and wire reports

McALLEN — A federal judge temporarily blocked an order issued by the governor of Texas to halt transportation of migrants by anyone other than local or federal authorities following an incident involving Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley.

On Aug. 3 Judge Kathleen Cardone of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas in El Paso granted an emergency request from the Department of Justice, which said the order was “dangerous and unlawful.” Then, on Aug. 13, she extended the order for an additional two weeks.

The DOJ had filed a lawsuit July 30 against the State of Texas, trying to stop enforcement of the order, which gives troopers the ability to pull over and impound a vehicle, if needed, that was suspected of transporting migrants.

“The executive order causes irreparable injury to the United States and to individuals the United States is charged with

protecting, jeopardizing the health and safety of noncitizens in federal custody, risking the safety of federal law enforcement personnel and their families, and exacerbating the spread of COVID-19,” the judge said in granting the emergency block of the executive order.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott had issued the executive order July 28 after authorities discovered a migrant family, being aided by CCRGC, at a fast-food restaurant in La Joya without masks even though they were supposed to be in quarantine at a hotel after testing positive for COVID-19.

Catholic Charities buses immigrants to its shelters upon their release by federal authorities, but also takes some to hotels to quarantine when one or more family members test positive.

Sister Normal Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities, said July 29 that while it was true that one of the families that the nonprofit was helping “decided to go out of the (hotel) room and go buy a hamburger,” it was an isolated incident and did not mean that all of them do that.

“What we’re seeing today, this misinformation, that it’s everybody, families are all over, exposing everybody to COVID, it’s false. It’s not true,” she said

during a Facebook Live interview conducted by the diocese.

The Texas governor, however, insinuated migrants are to blame for a rise in infections in the state and the measure was a way to stop COVID-19 from spreading into the community.

But others said his mismanagement of the pandemic in the state is to blame since he won’t call for a mask mandate as infections rise. Bishop Daniel E. Flores questioned in a tweet whether the order amounts to racial profiling.

Bishop Flores also weighed in on misdirected criticism of Catholic Charities during his sermon Aug. 7 at the Pro-Life Conference in McAllen.

“There’s been a lot of press lately and controversy about our Respite Center. ... You listen to the news sometimes and you would think that Sister Norma was in the river pulling people out. That’s not what’s happening,” he said. “I want it very clear, we are helping immigrant mothers and children who are brought to us by the federal government.

“Every day, one thousand two hundred — the federal government, it’s their decision who has permission to be in this country,” he said. “And they bring them to us, and they say, can you feed them? Can you give them water?”

“We don’t see the unaccompanied. We see the mothers and the children.” Bishop Flores said. “And they are there because the government has passed them into this country. What are we going to do? What am I going to do? Say, ‘Sorry. We can’t help them because *no son nuestros*?’ ... Nowhere in the Gospel did Jesus say, ‘Before I give you a drink of water, show me where you’re from.’”

The situation in the Valley was further complicated when the City of McAllen opened a tent camp for COVID-positive refugees in a fenced vacant lot on 23rd Street. The camp with some 1,500 occupants was quickly relocated to Anzalduas Park south of Mission the first week of August after protests outside the site in McAllen. Catholic Charities is still operating the camp at the park, where the numbers now are less than 300.

Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley has a long history of helping asylum seekers and refugees released from federal custody with food and shelter before they go to their final destinations in the U.S. The order had the potential to be disruptive to its daily operations since volunteers and others drive migrants to Catholic

» Please see CCRGV p. 19

» News Briefs Monthly Mass for the Elderly celebrated again at the basilica

The Valley Catholic

SAN JUAN — A special Mass for the Elderly is now celebrated once again on the last Tuesday morning of each month at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine.

The first Mass for the Elderly was set for Aug. 31.

The return of the Mass for the Elderly, which was suspended in 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic emerged, is in keeping with the spirit of Pope Francis’s declaration of the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which was celebrated for the first time on July 25, said Father Jorge Gomez, rector of the basilica.

“This Mass is a way of honoring our elderly 12 times a year,” Father Gomez said.

Early Mass returns to the basilica Tuesdays and Thursdays

The Valley Catholic

SAN JUAN — Early morning Masses have returned to the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine two days a week.

Mass is now being at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“During the pandemic we didn’t have it, but now more and more people are asking for it,” said Father Jorge Gomez, rector of the Basilica. “We’re going to start with two days — Tuesday and Thursday.”

Teaching Tuesdays

New video series features short catechesis lessons

SAN JUAN — Teaching Tuesdays, a new online series from the Diocese of Brownsville, seeks to increase knowledge of the Church. Luis Espinosa, director of the Office of Catechesis, in collaboration with the different ministries in the diocese, is offering short lessons in English and Spanish each week. The videos are available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-SkZxMFuyCg&list=PLiZ-kaqkdq0cbnjdXauTDJg8nD-jjDBwpvx>) and the Diocese Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicRGV>).

Topics have included Who are members of the Church, the Diocesan Bishop and Mary, Mother of God, Mother of the Church.

Vaccination is an act of love, pope says in ad campaign

Video message part of global effort to increase confidence in vaccines

By CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — When each individual makes a small act of charity, like getting the COVID-19 vaccine, every gesture added together can transform the world, Pope Francis said in a global ad campaign.

“Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love — love for oneself, love for one’s family and friends, love for all people,” he said in a public service announcement released Aug. 18 in Rome.

The video message was part of a global effort by the U.S.-based nonpartisan, nonprofit Ad Council and the COVID Collaborative’s “It’s Up To You” campaign to increase people’s confidence in COVID-19 vaccines by reminding them that the vaccines are safe, effective



CNS Screenshot/ courtesy Ad Council

Pope Francis is pictured in a video for an ad campaign promoting COVID-19 vaccines throughout the Americas.

and save people’s lives. The Vatican’s Dicastery for Integral Human Development also cooperated with the educational initiative.

The three-minute video in Spanish with English, Spanish and Portuguese subtitles features Pope Francis and six cardinals and archbishops from North and South America. Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is among them.

The “It’s Up To You” campaign has been inviting “trusted messengers” to deliver “fact-based and life-saving information to populations hesitant about the COVID-19 vaccines, helping them to make informed decisions for themselves and their families,” it said in a joint news release with

the Ad Council.

Lisa Sherman, president and CEO of the Ad Council, said, “The role of trusted messengers to educate and inspire their networks is undeniable.”

“We are extremely grateful to (Pope Francis) and the cardinals and archbishops for lending their voices and platforms to help people across the globe feel more confident in the vaccines,” particularly to the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics, she said in the news release.

It said 72% of the adult population and 67% of Hispanic adults have currently been vaccinated against COVID-19 with at least one dose in the United States.

But COVID-19 cases are on the rise worldwide, especially in North, Central and South America. Some nations are

still showing very low rates of individuals who are fully vaccinated, such as Honduras with only 5.5% of the adult population and El Salvador with 30%.

While access to vaccines is a challenge, “confidence in the vaccines also presents a hurdle,” the news release said.

In his message, the pope said, “Thanks to God and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from COVID-19. They grant us the hope of ending the pandemic, but only if they are available to all and if we work together.”

Getting inoculated “is an act of love” for oneself, family, friends and all people, he said.

“Love is also social and political” as these individual “small gestures of personal charity” add up, “overflowing” into something universal that is “capable of transforming and improving societies,” he said.

“Vaccination is a simple but profound way of promoting the common good and caring for each other, especially the most vulnerable,” the pope said.

“I pray to God that everyone may contribute their own small grain of sand, their own small gesture of love; no matter how small, love is always great. Contribute with these small gestures for a better future. God bless you, and thank you,” he said.

2
HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS (CONSECRATED LIFE)
Every first Thursday of each month the Holy Hour will be dedicated for an increase in vocations to consecrated life (active and contemplative) and for the religious sisters and brothers in our diocese and the success of their missions. This Holy Hour is set for 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 2 at St. Joseph Adoration Chapel, 723 E. Bowie Ave. in Alamo.

3
HOLY HOUR: PRAYER AT NOON ON FRIDAY
The hour to fulfill Bishop Flores’ call for diocese-wide prayer at noon Friday by praying the Angelus or prayers of your choice.

4
HOLY HOUR FOR YOUNG HEARTS
Holy Hour for Young Hearts open to all youth on the first Saturday of every month at St. Joseph Adoration Chapel. This month’s Holy Hour is set for 5 p.m., Sept. 4 at the chapel, 723 E. Bowie Ave. in Alamo.

5
MASS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
The Mass for children with special needs and their families is scheduled for 1- 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 5, at Holy Family Church, 2405 E. Tyler in Brownsville.

5
SUNDAY MASS ONLINE
Sunday Mass is available online in the Diocese of Brownsville Facebook and Youtube Channel at 11 a.m.

6
LABOR DAY - DIOCESAN OFFICES CLOSED
The offices of the Diocese of Brownsville will be closed Monday, Sept. 6 for the Labor Day national holiday.

9
HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS (DEACONS)
Every second Thursday of each month the Holy Hour will be dedicated for the intentions of the deacons (permanent and transitional) of the diocese and their families. This month Holy Hour for Vocations (Deacons) is set for 7-8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9 at St. Joseph Adoration Chapel, 723 E. Bowie Ave. in Alamo.

10
HOLY HOUR: PRAYER AT NOON ON FRIDAY
The hour to fulfill Bishop Flores’ call for diocese-wide prayer at noon Friday by praying the Angelus or prayers of your choice.

12
SUNDAY MASS ONLINE
Sunday Mass is available online in the Diocese of Brownsville Facebook and Youtube Channel at 11 a.m.

16
HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS (MARRIED LIFE)
Every third Thursday of each month the Holy Hour will be dedicated for the intentions of the sanctification of the Vocation of Matrimony. Families, engaged couples, and couples in the Family Apostolic Movements and in other marriage ministries are invited to gather and pray for this intention. This month Holy Hour for Vocations (Married Life) is set for 7-8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16 at St. Joseph Adoration Chapel, 723 E. Bowie Ave. in Alamo.

17
HOLY HOUR: PRAYER AT NOON ON FRIDAY
The hour to fulfill Bishop Flores’ call for diocese-wide prayer at noon Friday by praying the Angelus or prayers of your choice.

19
SUNDAY MASS ONLINE
Sunday Mass is available online in the Diocese of Brownsville Facebook and Youtube Channel at 11 a.m..

24
HOLY HOUR: PRAYER AT NOON ON FRIDAY
The hour to fulfill Bishop Flores’ call for diocese-wide prayer at noon Friday by praying the Angelus or prayers of your choice.

25
VIRTUAL CATECHETICAL CONVOCATION
The annual Catechetical Convocation of the Diocese of Brownsville has been scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 25. There will not be an in-person convocation this year. All catechists serving the Diocese of Brownsville’s parishes, mission churches and Catholic schools are invited and encouraged to participate virtually in the day of prayer, reflection and fellowship. Contact the Office of Catechesis for more information.

25
NIGHT OF HEALING AND DIVINE MERCY
Msgr. Juan Nicolau, Ph.D., leads the faithful in prayer for a Night of Healing and Divine Mercy at 6:30 p.m. at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine.

26
SUNDAY MASS ONLINE
Sunday Mass is available online in the Diocese of Brownsville Facebook and Youtube Channel at 11 a.m.

» Monthly calendar

SEPTEMBER



Month of Our Lady of Sorrows



SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS TO:
Paul Binz at pbinz@cdob.org
or call (956) 784-5055.



How has the Love of Jesus in the Eucharist touched your life?

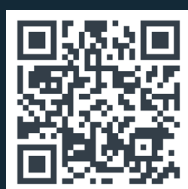
Bishop Daniel E. Flores invites all of us to reflect and pray about what the Mystery of Jesus in the Eucharist means for us individually and as a people. “I would like anyone who feels moved to do so to write me a short expression of what your life in the Eucharist means to you. How has the love of Jesus in the Eucharist touched your life?”

You can mail your letter to the address below or send them electronically via the online form at:

<https://www.cdob.org/eucharist/>



The Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores
Diocese of Brownsville
1910 University Boulevard
Brownsville, Texas 78520
ATTN: What the Eucharist Means to Me


Please include your name, address, email, phone number and parish.



TEACHING TUESDAYS

Be sure to check Facebook and YouTube weekly for short catechesis lessons.





Catholic Diocese of Brownsville

CCRGV

continued from pg. 18

Charities shelters and, during the pandemic, to hotels to quarantine.

An Aug. 3 news release from Catholic Charities USA explains the role of local member agencies.

“Once a migrant has been granted permission by the federal government to be present in the United States, they are sent to us for transitional care that is threaded with the dignity we believe should be afforded to every human — a warm meal, a shower, clean clothing, medicine and other supplies,” the release said.

“Within usually two days, the migrants leave our centers to continue their journey while they await the start of their immigration court process which can take years to conclude,” it continued. “The staff and volunteers have the utmost concern for the safety of the communities they

live within and do everything they can to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

In a brief statement, the Texas governor’s office said Aug. 3 that “the court’s recent order is temporary and based on limited evidence.”

“We look forward to providing the court with the evidence to support the governor’s executive order to protect Texans,” the statement said. “The Biden administration has knowingly — and willfully — released COVID-19 positive migrants into Texas communities, risking the potential exposure and infection of Texas residents.”

Abbott’s order “attempts to prevent the Biden administration from spreading COVID-19 into Texas and protect the health and safety of Texans,” it said.

—
Rhina Guidos of Catholic News Service and Paul Binz of The Valley Catholic contributed to this report.

DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE SAN JUAN DIEGO

MINISTRY INSTITUTE

**Are you being called to
greater service in the Church?
¿Sientes el llamado de servir
en la Iglesia como Ministro laico?**

New Diocesan Lay Ministry Formation Program 2022-2024

First Year:

- *Theology of Ministry
- *Introduction to Theology
- *Christology
- *Introduction to Philosophy
- *Biblical Studies I (OT)
- *Ecclesiology
- *Sacramental Theology
- *Liturgy & Worship

Second Year:

- *Catholic Social Teaching
- *Biblical Studies II (NT)
- *Christian Prayer
- *Church History
- *Catholic Spirituality
- *Christian Morality
- *Vatican II Documents
- *Theological Reflection

Third Year (Optional):

- *Specialized area of Ministry
"Servant Leadership"
Pastoral Skills

Orientation in English
Saturday, Oct. 9

Orientacion en Español
Sabado, 16 de Octubre

visit us on facebook



**Diocesan Lay Ministry Formation
2021 English Graduating Class**

"Called and sent into the vineyard of the Lord."
"Llamados y enviados a la Viña del Señor."
(Mt. 9:38)



**Diocesan Lay Ministry Formation
2021 Spanish Graduating Class**



Catholic Diocese of Brownsville
San Juan Diego Ministry Institute
Contact: Deacon Luis Zuniga at (956) 784-5059
Email: Lzuniga@cdob.org