

# Commemorative Issue

The Ordination & Installation of Bishop Michael J. Sis



Serving the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas  
Volume XXXIV, No. 2  
FEBRUARY 2014



## INSIDE

► Photos of Ordination / Installation Mass, Vespers: Pages 2-4, 8, 10-11, 12-13

► Ordination Coverage / 2

► Guide to Different Rituals of the Ordination / Installation Mass / 6

► Texas Diocesan Map, Bishops / 7

► Bishop Sis' Farewell Mass At St. Mary's in College Station / 7

► Sister Theodore's Reflection on Her Friendship with Bishop Sis / 9

► Bishop Pfeifer Interview / 9

► Coverage of Bishop Pfeifer's Thanksgiving Mass / 14

► Biographies of the six Bishops of San Angelo / 15-20

At left, newly ordained Bishop Michael J. Sis at the altar during his Ordination and Installation Mass, January 27, 2014 at the Junell Center, Angelo State University, San Angelo.

**ORDINATION PHOTO BY  
ALAN P. TORRE / aptorre.com**

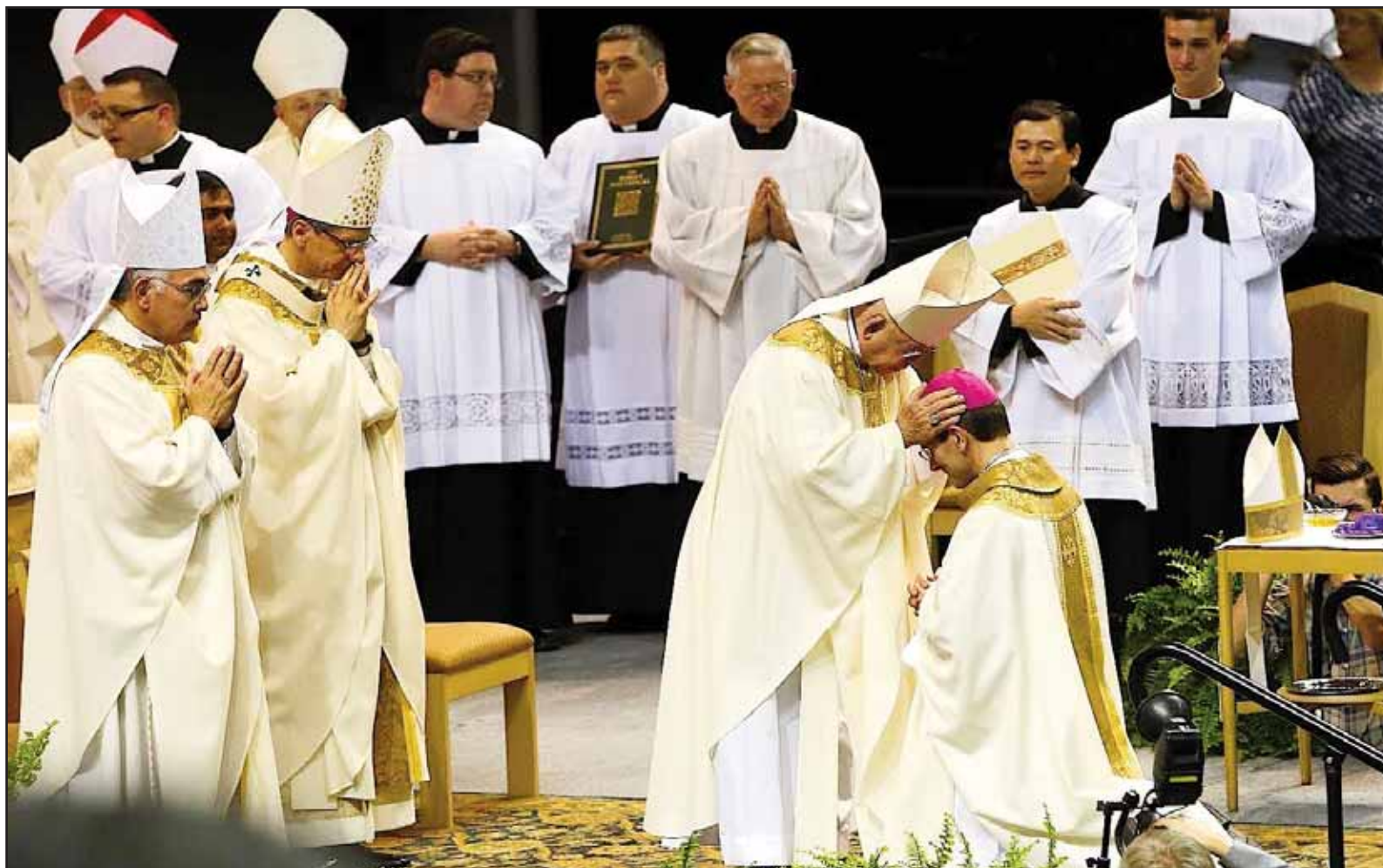


The Junell Center  
San Angelo, Texas

Angelo State University  
January 27, 2014

DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO  
PO BOX 1829  
SAN ANGELO TX 76902-1829  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SAN ANGELO, TX  
PERMIT NO. 44



The Ordination and  
Installation of  
Most Reverend  
Michael J. Sis  
January 27, 2014

Bishop Michael D.  
Pfeifer, OMI, second  
from right, lays hands on  
Bishop Michael J. Sis at  
Bishop Sis' ordination,  
January 27, 2014

Photo by Alan P. Torre /  
aportre.com

# 'Today is the first day of the future'

Bishop Sis asks for prayers, 'That God may give us the mercy to carry out our mission'

By **Jimmy Patterson**  
Editor  
Diocese of San Angelo

SAN ANGELO -- A jubilant crowd of enthusiastic Catholics from West, Central and Southeast Texas celebrated a unique and historic Mass at the Junell Center on the campus of Angelo State University Monday: the ordination and installation of the Most Rev. Michael J. Sis, sixth Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Angelo.

Also attending from Washington was Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio and papal delegate to the United States.

"Today is the first day of the future that God wants to work with us in our lives here," Sis said in brief remarks at the end of the Mass. "Tomorrow we will get to work and move forward, each one of us doing our part to write the next chapter in the beautiful history of the church in this diocese. As Christians we

are people of hope, because of the power of the resurrection."

Sis succeeds the Most Reverend Michael D. Pfeifer who, after 28 1/2 years of service to Catholics and others in the diocese, submitted his resignation to the Vatican on May 18, 2012, 75th birthday, in accordance with church law. That retirement letter was accepted December 12, 2013, when Viganò telephoned Sis to inform him that Pope Francis had selected him as Bishop Pfeifer's successor.

The retiring Pfeifer was one of two co-consecrators at the Mass, along with Austin Bishop Joe Vásquez, who grew up near Abilene and was ordained a priest in the Diocese of San Angelo before being named a bishop. San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller was the principal consecrator.

An estimated crowd of almost 4,000 -- including an impressive 200 visiting priests and 25 visiting archbishops and bishops -- witnessed the almost-three

hour ordination.

"This was awesome," said Sister Mary Grace, O.Carm., superior of Our Lady of Grace Monastery near Christoval.

"Today was a wonderful, wonderful experience of the universal church. You can almost feel our Holy Father, Pope Francis, with us in the participation of the people, and the support of the people for their new bishop was great.

Following Viganò's reading of Pope Francis' apostolic letter, officially appointing Sis as Bishop of San Angelo, the crowd accepted the proclamation and the appointment through a show of hearty applause.

García-Siller delivered the homily, encouraging the new bishop in the journey on which he was about to embark. García-Siller reminded Sis that his appointment was not to be taken as a "superior position," before invoking Chapter 21 of the Gospel of John.

"Jesus said 'tend my sheep' as mine, not as yours," García-Siller recalled St.

Augustine's paraphrase of the Gospel passage.

The archbishop told Most Rev. Sis, "You are following the example of the Good Shepherd. Guide the flock entrusted to you through authentic preaching and teaching, carrying your community of believers even to the point of laying down your life for your flock."

Addressing not only Sis but all in attendance, García-Siller said, "The Lord will be at your side in good times and at challenging moments, sharing your joys and helping carry your burdens. He will walk beside you for all your days. You need not fear the Good Shepherd, who is with you on your side giving you strength and perseverance."

The ordination was also attended by many family and friends of Bishop Sis, who most recently served the Austin Diocese as vicar general. He was ordained in 1986 by Bishop John E.

(Please See **ORDINATION/21**)

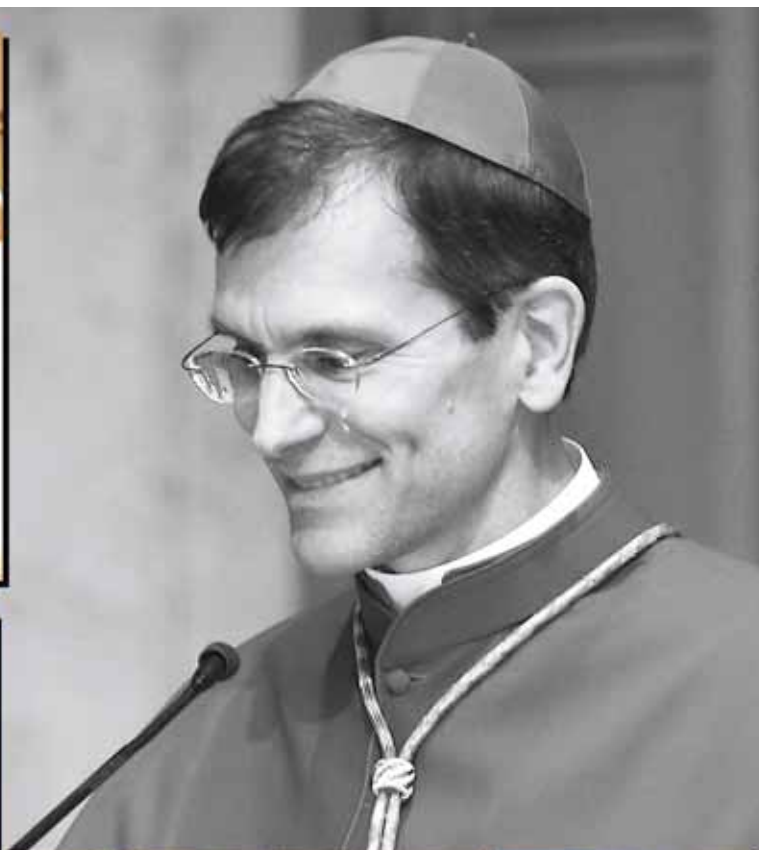
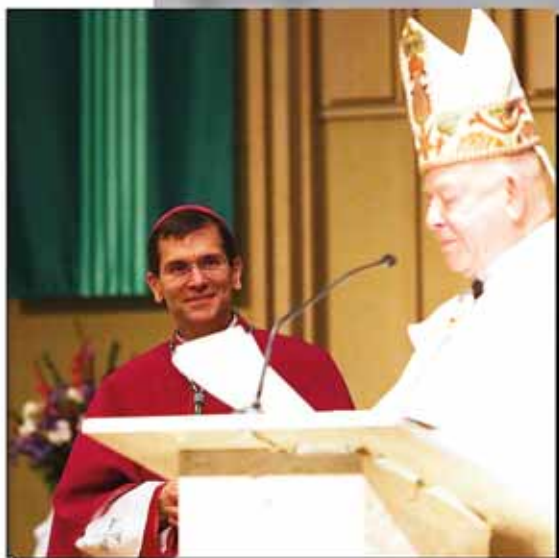


The Ordination and  
Installation of  
Most Reverend  
Michael J. Sis  
January 27, 2014

Bishop Michael J. Sis, at left with his parents, Raymond and Janice Sis. Below left, Bishop Sis with his father, a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church in Bryan, and below, with retiring San Angelo Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI.

Photos by Alan P. Torre / aptorre.com





The Ordination and  
Installation of  
Most Reverend  
Michael J. Sis  
January 27, 2014

*Images from  
Solemn  
Vespers*

January 26,  
2014

Sacred  
Heart  
Cathedral



# 'Ministry to youth is vitally important to the future of our faith'

**Editor's Note:** On December 31, 2013, Bishop Michael Sis sat down with Angelus editor Jimmy Patterson. Part 1 of that interview was published in the January 2014 Angelus and remains available online at [sanangelodiocese.org](http://sanangelodiocese.org). Part 2 is included here.

## Angelus: Your father is a deacon. How important were your parents to your formation?

**Bishop Sis:** My parents had a central role in my formation as a human being, as a Christian, and as a Catholic. They've always been Catholics, and they have actively practiced their faith since they were children. They grew up in Kansas, where Catholics are a minority. They participated actively as a young couple in the Christian Family Movement, which still exists, but it was very powerful when they were a young couple in the 1950s. CFM (The Christian Family Movement) helped form and shape them as a Catholic couple, and it gave them resources and equipped them spiritually to form a Catholic family. They raised us in a Catholic home. They gave us the freedom to pursue whatever course of studies would interest us and didn't try to push us into one career or another. When I told my parents that I was interested in the seminary, their response was, "If you continue in the seminary, we will support you, but if you ever decide to leave, you can always come home, because we will always be your family." That gave me a tremendous sense of freedom for my discernment. They've always been supportive, but never pushy. My mother was a coordinator of religious education in two parishes in Bryan-College Station. She was a very effective catechist and trainer of catechists. My father is a 4th-degree Knight of Columbus. The faith has always been very important to them. Of course they had a key role in my formation as a Catholic man and a priest, but my priestly vocation is not something they pushed or expected. They were open to whatever work I would want to pursue in my life, just like with my brother and 3 sisters.

## Angelus: Had you not been a priest, what would you have become?

**Bishop Sis:** I have no idea. At one point I was interested in law, at another point I was interested in counseling, in teaching, and even in the Air Force. There were several things that interested me. I entered the seminary as a sophomore in college. The seminary was a

place for me to discern my vocation in a thorough way.

## Angelus: Is shepherding the people your strong point as a leader?

**Bishop Sis:** I think fundamentally, my style is shepherding people, being a pastor. I acknowledge the fact that in the church of today, being a pastor involves administration, and I accept that. I try to be a good steward in administering the community responsibly and effectively. Essentially my training is to be a pastoral minister.

## Angelus: You listed a number of priorities in your news conference introducing you as the sixth Bishop of San Angelo, December 12. Are there any among those on which you would care to elaborate?

**Bishop Sis:** Well, we're seeing that Pope Francis is highlighting the importance of the family for the next year or two in the Church worldwide. As members of the universal Catholic Church, that's going to be a priority. Naturally we'll be paying attention to the family in the near future. We'll be seeing lots of material coming from the Holy See regarding the importance of family life. One of the things I said also is that God gave me two ears and one mouth, and I need to discover the needs of the people I am serving before claiming to know the answers. I'll have to do a lot of listening and I hope the people of the Church in the Diocese of San Angelo will share their experiences with me. We work together as co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord. No one person can run a church. A church is a community of believers and all of us need to contribute what we have to give in order for the church to fulfill its mission in the world.

## Angelus: We have a large prison population in the diocese. What are your thoughts on how to minister to the incarcerated?

**Bishop:** We also have a lot of prisons in the Diocese of Austin, especially in Gatesville, and we do our best to try and serve those in the prisons. In Austin, we found that deacons are in a position to make a tremendous impact in the ministry to prisoners, and I would hope that deacons here would also be involved in the jail ministry. One of the most successful things in the Diocese of Austin is the work of the teams in parishes doing RCIA programs in prisons. It has been a beautiful success story of ministry, where

a local parish team forms to offer RCIA to bring lots of prisoners to Christ and Catholicism, and when those people are ready to be initiated, they get initiated, but that team does all the work inside the walls, and when the time is right, the bishop or local pastor goes in to offer the Sacraments of Initiation. I love that model because it's engaging. It's a field of evangelization that's just waiting to be harvested. With patience and common sense, we can establish good, constructive relationships with prison administrators so they can see our presence is beneficial to their efforts as well as in the lives of their prisoners. The key is to establish a trusting, collaborative relationship so that we can get our groups and teams into those prisons to share the faith with the people imprisoned.

## Angelus: What do you see as some of the challenges and successes in ministering to Hispanics?

**Bishop Sis:** The church is universal. Catholicism is not the property of any one culture, nation or language. By being Catholic, we belong to a family that is multilingual and international. All of us in the church, whether English speakers or Spanish speakers, whether US citizens or Mexican citizens, all of us have to learn to be sensitive to our intercultural experience in Texas. None of us can expect the church to belong only to our own culture or to our own ethnic ancestry. All of us need to learn to appreciate the gifts and beauty of Catholicism as it is lived out by other cultures as well. The challenge for all of us is to build intercultural competency in the hearts of all of our faithful, and especially in our diocesan and parish staffs, so that everyone — from the pastor to the receptionist to the maintenance man — has a welcoming, hospitable attitude, realizing that this beautiful Catholic faith of mine is shared by people whose culture is very different from my own and we are all in this together.

## Angelus: Tell us a little about your experiences at the St. Mary's Catholic Center in College Station.

**Bishop Sis:** Every university campus is unique. You can't expect any one campus ministry to become the same as a campus ministry in another setting. What we need to do is look at each local scene and find what works there, and with God's help, meet the needs with the resources available there. I believe that students on

college campuses have gifts the Church needs and we as a Church will do well to instill in these young people a commitment to the Catholic faith that they will live out the rest of their lives in parishes. A key goal in ministry is to equip these students for a lifetime of faith after they leave the university and we can do that no matter what kind of campus we're looking at. I believe that it's good for all of us in the Church to try to see how those around a college campus can minister to the students and how the students' gifts can benefit those around the college campus. It's a two-way street. By that symbiotic relationship of those around the campus with the students, everyone benefits, and the future of the church is strengthened.

## Angelus: Statistics have shown that the Catholic Church is losing as much as ten percent of its young adults to the so-called 'megachurch' or evangelical church movement. Can you comment on how we can shrink that number?

**Bishop Sis:** Our ministry to youth is vitally important to the future of our faith. All of us need to invest in our ministry to young people. We need to learn what our young people need and we need to listen to the questions our young people are asking. We can't presume to understand what to offer them until we've really listened to them. There are plenty of examples around the country of vibrant Catholic youth ministries. The successful practices can be learned from them and applied locally. There are ways for us to provide engaging prayer experiences for our teenagers and still be faithful to our liturgical tradition. We don't have to give up one for the other. Part of the beauty of Catholicism is "both/and" rather than "either/or." We can provide beautiful Catholic liturgy and we can provide young people with prayer services that engage them. That doesn't mean we have to give up the Mass or make the Mass something it's not. That doesn't mean we have to make the Mass into some sort of entertainment or concert. There's a lot of prayer that can happen outside the Mass. The Mass can engage young people in lots of ways that are thoroughly consistent with our liturgical tradition if we would all put our thinking caps on and ask ourselves how we can make room for young people in our celebrations.

*What did that mean?*

## A guide to the Ordination (and Installation) Mass of Bishop Sis

**Editor's Note:** If you attended or watched the Most Rev. Michael J. Sis' Ordination/Installation Mass, Monday, January 27 at The Junell Center in San Angelo, what follows is an explanation of some of the rituals and moments in the Mass. Msgr. Larry Droll, pastor at St. Ann's in Midland, spoke with *West Texas Angelus* editor Jimmy Patterson about some of the rituals and other unique occurrences.

**West Texas Angelus:** First of all, before we talk about the Mass itself, Bishop-elect Sis comes to San Angelo from Austin, where he served as vicar general, and moderator of the curia. What is the moderator of the curia?

**Monsignor Droll:** The moderator of the curia, in Canon Law, is a person who has a coordinating function of the various offices at the diocesan level. Exactly what the moderator of the curia does is probably going to vary from one diocese to another, depending on what the needs are. Some dioceses have many different departments that need to be coordinated and the moderator of the curia might do that, while smaller ones might have the moderator of the curia working more in the function of a human resources director.

**Bishop-elect Sis was both installed and ordained. What is the difference between the two and why is there a need to have both?**

**Monsignor Droll:** The Ordination of the Bishop is the sacrament of holy orders in which the bishop receives the charism of being a bishop and a successor of the apostles. The Installation is the time when the bishop takes possession of the diocese, as it is phrased. There were two different movements, the ordination first, then the installation. If you have a bishop already ordained as a bishop in some other diocese, then when he moves into his new diocese he would only have an installation ceremony because that is when he is taking canonical possession of the diocese.

**The Angelus:** Why are there three consecrators at the ordination?

**Msgr. Droll:** There are three co consecrators as a back-up to assure apostolic succession.

**The Angelus:** What would you say would be one of the more visually unique moments of the Mass?

**Msgr. Droll:** One of the most observable moments was when the archbishop

prays the Prayer of Consecration over the bishop, and the two deacons held the Book of the Gospels over the head of the bishop. That symbolizes the word of God and the importance of the bishop as chief teacher of the word of God in the diocese. One of the deacons helping to hold the Gospels over Bishop-elect Sis was his father, Deacon Raymond Sis.

**The Angelus:** After a hymn invoking the Holy Spirit was the presentation of Bishop Sis ...

**Msgr. Droll:** As part of the presentation of the bishop, the papal nuncio read the official apostolic letter from Pope Francis that named him Bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo. That was followed by the Consent of the People, which was shown by applause.

**The Angelus:** Who was the homilist at the ordination Mass?

**Msgr. Droll:** Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, the metropolitan archdiocese of the Diocese of San Angelo, provided the homily. There are suggested words in the ritual that talk of the role of the bishop in the Church as a successor of the apostles and of his role of teaching, sanctifying and governing the local church.

**The Angelus:** What were the questions asked by Archbishop García-Siller during the Promise of the Elect, which followed the homily?

**Msgr. Droll:** The Promise of the Elect, according to the ancient rule of the holy Fathers, is that a bishop-elect is to be questioned in the presence of the people on his resolve to uphold the faith and to discharge his duties. The questions are:  
-- Do you resolve to discharge until death the office entrusted to you?  
-- Do you resolve to preach the Gospel of Christ with constancy and fidelity?  
-- Do you resolve to guard the deposit of faith, namely the teaching of the Church?  
-- Do you resolve to build up the Body of Christ and work toward unity in the Body of Christ?  
-- Do you resolve to render obedience faithfully to the pope?

-- Do you resolve to guide the holy people of God, as a devoted father, and sustain them with the help of your fellow ministers, the priests and deacons?  
-- Do you resolve to be welcoming and merciful to the poor, to strangers and to all who are in need?

-- Do you resolve as a good shepherd to seek out the sheep who stray and to gather them into the Lord's fold?

-- Do you resolve to pray without ceasing to God for the people and to carry out your office without reproach?

**The Angelus:** Next up was the Invitation to Prayer.

**Msgr. Droll:** The invitation is for everyone to join in the Litany of the Saints, where we invoke a number of saints to pray for us and our new bishop.

**The Angelus:** Why do priests and bishops who are being ordained lie prostrate on the floor?

**Msgr. Droll:** It is a sign of deep prayer. We often kneel before God as a sign of submission to Him and supplication and prayer, but to lie prostrate before God is an even deeper sign, you might say, than kneeling itself. It demonstrates humility before God.

**The Angelus:** The Laying On of Hands on the bishop differs from that of a priestly ordination. Whereas a newly ordained priest receives the Laying On of Hands from the bishop and his fellow priests, the ritual at a bishop's ordination includes the Laying On of Hands by all bishops in attendance, which were 25.

**Msgr. Droll:** Yes, the Laying On of Hands is the moment of ordination. First, the archbishop laid hands on Bishop Sis' head, and then all the other bishops followed.

**The Angelus:** What makes that the moment of ordination?

**Msgr. Droll:** When you look at the Scriptures, the sign of passing on the office is the laying on of hands. That goes back to Scripture in the Acts of the Apostles. And then with the Prayer of Consecration that follows it. In many instances what we pray tells us the significance of the particular ritual act. You can look at the prayers and what they say and it helps to understand what is being done at the time.

**The Angelus:** Anointing is next?

**Msgr. Droll:** Bishop Sis was anointed with the oil of chrism used in the Sacrament of Holy Orders, making him a sharer in the high priesthood of Christ. The wording again tells us a little about what it means. He is handed the Book of

the Gospels and the archbishop says, 'Receive the Gospel and preach the word of God with all patience and sound teaching.'

**The Angelus:** Define, if you will, the 'Investiture with Ring, Miter and Pastoral Staff' portion of the Rite.

**Msgr. Droll:** Investiture means the items you wear or carry that signify your office. The ring is a sign of fidelity that the bishop is, in a certain sense, married to the church. The miter distinguishes a bishop so that he might be seen as the chief shepherd. The crosier is a sign of his pastoral office to watch over his whole flock.

**The Angelus:** Why is 'The Seating of the Bishop' denoted in the program?

**Msgr. Droll:** The kiss of peace comes before, and is the sign of all the bishops receiving him into the college of bishops, or the collection of bishops as they try to work together, so it's a sign of unity. The Seating of the Bishop is the actual installation. If Bishop Sis were in the cathedral, he would be seated on the cathedra, the principal chair of the bishop in the church. He wasn't in the cathedral but was seated as the bishop on the stage at The Junell Center.

**The Angelus:** How did the Ordination and Installation Mass conclude?

**Msgr. Droll:** Archbishop García-Siller and Bishop Vásquez led Bishop Sis around the congregation to greet the people. He walked through the seating areas of the arena and offered his blessing just prior to the final blessing.

**The Angelus:** Finally, Saturday, February 1 at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral, will be the Vigil Mass of the first Sunday liturgy of Bishop Sis' apostolate in the diocese. What happens at that Mass?

**Msgr. Droll:** This is when the bishop comes to his cathedral for the first time, and is welcomed at the door by the rector of the cathedral. He is presented with a crucifix for him to kiss because he is assisting with bringing the presence of Christ into the assembly. And then he is taken into the church. It is a simple ceremony but what makes it special is that he has come to his first liturgy in his cathedral church.

# Catholic Dioceses of Texas

## Bishops of Texas



### Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo,  
Archbishop  
Most Rev. George Sheltz,  
Auxiliary Bishop  
Most Rev. Joseph Fiorenza,  
Archbishop Emeritus  
Most Rev. Vincent Rizotto,  
Retired Auxiliary Bishop

### Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Rev. Gustavo Garcia-Siller,  
Archbishop  
Most Rev. Thomas Flanagan,  
retired Auxiliary Bishop  
Most Rev. Patrick Flores,  
Archbishop Emeritus

### Diocese of Amarillo

Most Rev. Patrick Zurek, Bishop  
Most Rev. John Yanta, Bishop  
Emeritus

### Diocese of Austin

Most Rev. Joe Vasquez, Bishop  
Most Rev. John McCarthy, Bishop  
Emeritus

### Diocese of Beaumont

Most Rev. Curtis Guillory, SVD,  
Bishop

### Diocese of Brownsville

Most Rev. Daniel Flores, Bishop  
Most Rev. Raymundo Pena,  
Bishop Emeritus  
Diocese of Corpus Christi  
Most Rev. Wm. Michael Mulvey,

### Bishop

Most Rev. Edmond Carmody,  
Bishop Emeritus  
Most Rev. Rene Garcia, Bishop  
Emeritus

### Diocese of Dallas

Most Rev. Kevin J. Farrell, Bishop  
Most Rev. J. Douglas Deshotel,  
Auxiliary Bishop  
Most Rev. Charles Grahmann,  
Bishop Emeritus

### Diocese of El Paso

Most Rev. Mark Seitz, Bishop

### Diocese of Fort Worth

Most Rev. Michael Olson, Bishop

### Diocese of Laredo

Most Rev. James Tamayo, Bishop

### Diocese of Lubbock

Most Rev. Placido Rodriguez,  
CMF, Bishop

### Diocese of San Angelo

Most Rev. Michael Sis, Bishop

### Diocese of Tyler

Most Rev. Joseph Strickland,  
Bishop  
Most Rev. Edmond Carmody,  
Vicar General

### Diocese of Victoria

Most Rev. David Fellhauer,  
Bishop

## St. Mary's in College Station sends favorite son to San Angelo



A crowded St. Mary's Church in College Station assembles for a Mass of Thanksgiving for Most Rev. Michael J. Sis (Photo courtesy Randall Light).

By Mary Walker

COLLEGE STATION — On Friday, January 10, Bishop-elect Michael Sis celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's Catholic Center in College Station. Before leaving to be ordained and installed as the Bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo, "Father Mike" returned to the area where he grew up and the parish where he had served as pastor.

His roots run deep in the Bryan/College Station area. The bishop-elect is one of five children, son of Ray and Jan Sis. He attended St. Joseph Catholic School and

Bryan public schools, and his family attended Mass and participated in the activities of St. Joseph Parish, St. Anthony Parish, and St. Mary's Catholic Center.

Ordained a priest in 1986, he returned to College Station in 1992 as associate pastor for St. Mary's Catholic Center at Texas A&M University. In 1993, he was named pastor and director of campus ministry. Under his leadership, the ministry grew in size, programs, outreach, and facilities, and gained a national reputation for excellence. During his 13 years as pastor, Texas A&M also became known as a "vocations powerhouse," with

many former students entering the seminary or formation for religious orders. Today, Aggie priests, deacons, and religious serve in many dioceses and in the missions, and they often credit "Father Mike" for helping them to hear and respond to God's call.

Not only Catholics, but also the entire university community was enriched by his time at Texas A&M. Bishop-designate Sis' reputation as a compassionate, insightful, wise, and effective leader fostered an excellent relationship

(Please See **ST. MARY/22**)



The Ordination and  
Installation of  
Most Reverend  
Michael J. Sis  
January 27, 2014

Bishop Michael J. Sis, at left, during the preparation of the Holy Eucharist. Below left, Bishop Sis greets the combined diocesan choir at the conclusion of his Ordination and Installation Mass, and below, student musicians from Angelo Catholic School, in San Angelo, and St. Mary's Catholic School, in Odessa, perform at the Mass.

Photos by Alan P. Torre / aptorre.com)



# Carmelite sister recalls experiences with ‘Father Mike’

**Editor's Note:** The following reflection was written by Sister Theodore in December 2013, following Bishop Sis' appointment as Bishop of San Angelo.

**By Sister Mary Theodore Therese, O.-Carm.**  
Our Lady of Grace Monastery

CHRISTOVAL — When I first met Msgr. Mike Sis, it was over the phone. I had called the Austin Diocese Vocation Office to find out whether I could attend their vocation retreat since I did not fit into the age range as posted. I remember his voice was so warm and welcoming. “Sure, you can attend!” But he didn’t leave it at that. He went on to inquire about my interest in serving God; he wanted to know what kind of vocation was I interested in. When I replied contemplative, he spontaneously said. “You know, I have been invited to the first vows of a Carmelite nun but can’t go. Would you like to go in my place? I’m sure they won’t mind.” I was stunned! Here was someone who had never met me, and yet, was offering me a unique opportunity to witness and participate in

such a sacred moment in the life of a religious; and not any religious, a cloistered Carmelite nun which I was yearning to become.

It had only been one week since I had entered the Church (on the Easter Vigil 2006); yet the prompting of the Holy Spirit to my soul was readily perceived by Msgr. Mike. Through his willingness to help, his ability to listen and hear, and proactively respond, he helped open wide the doors to my vocation.

After meeting “Fr. Mike,” at the vocation retreat, he continued to show interest in helping me to pursue my calling. Besides having on-going discernment meetings with him, Msgr. Mike prayed for me and actively paved the way to remove the obstacles hindering my entrance. He walked with me for two years helping me to systematically understand, embrace and accept God’s call; not only spiritually but practically and emotionally. One thing he said to me really stuck. He said, “Once you enter, allow yourself space and time to grieve.” He wanted me to know that I would be mourning my old life, family and friends but that God will give me something even greater – a dedicated, consecrated life with Him.

Msgr. Mike went as far as: to help find a family that would allow me to stay with them about six months in order to more quickly pay down my final debts; to contact the Knights of Columbus who helped move all my belongings to second-hand shops and to storage; and to encourage the Knights to help with some of my finances which they did. Thanks be to God!

I am a religious today because of the power of God’s grace which flows through Msgr. Mike Sis. He’s someone who cannot be easily complimented because for him, it is not him. It is the Holy Spirit working through him. I feel he is humble, unassuming yet fearless in doing God’s will. He doesn’t have a need to make his presence felt. He is simply the instrument of the Lord and everything flows from that reality of truth in his being. I am so thankful for his ever-present support, wise counsel, and joyful countenance through the years. What a great gift of grace the Lord has poured out upon our diocese by making Msgr. Mike Sis our bishop, especially after having such a phenomenal bishop as Bishop Mike Pfeifer who has been such an incredible shepherd for our monastery. As a diocese, we are truly blessed!

## Bishop Pfeifer shares feelings of time spent as San Angelo bishop

West Texas Angelus editor Jimmy Patterson sat down with Most Reverend Michael D. Pfeifer, retired fifth Bishop of San Angelo, on January 21, 2014, the day of the Bishop’s farewell Mass of Thanksgiving at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Below are the bishop’s comments on his service to the Diocese of San Angelo and his thoughts of what lies ahead.

**The Angelus: What are you feeling on this day?**

**Bishop Pfeifer:** I have mixed feelings. Feelings of a certain sorrow but feelings of satisfaction and of knowing that the diocese is going to be in good hands because we are receiving a very good shepherd. The feelings of separation and the sorrow evoked with it I went through a year and seven months ago when I had to write my retirement letter to Rome. That’s kind of like a high point when you come to the end. When you write that letter, it’s over so to speak. You know it is going to be over soon. There are a lot of emotions there. I was thinking (The Vatican) would reply a lot sooner than it did, so the emotions dwindled.

**The Angelus: What was the response like from the people upon news that you had written your retirement letter?**

**Bishop Pfeifer:** I kept traveling and people had heard I was going to be retiring according to church policy. People told me goodbye and they thanked me. Some would give me a cake thinking they would not see me again. And I would come back a month, two months

or three months later and they started asking. ‘Are you still here? What happened? We thought you had left?’ Rome postponed and postponed, but a year and seven months later I finally got a reply. Interestingly in the middle of all this a Pope resigned in the meantime. I sent my letter and 8-10 months later we got word that Pope Benedict was retiring. I guess he sent his letter to the Lord.

**The Angelus: What will it be like for you leaving San Angelo?**

**Bishop Pfeifer:** A lot of human feelings. This has been my home. I’ve never been in one place so long in all my life. It’s my home, my people, I’ve been involved in their life. I feel like I am part of their families, and that’s not easy to leave. But in the plan of God and of the Church, the Church is a wise mother and I think the policy is good. And it’s time. It’s time. A change for me, a time for the diocese of change. Hopefully we’ve done a lot of good things together. I don’t think it depends on one person or one man, but the entire community that has been involved for many, many years and I go away with basically a sense of satisfaction and gratitude for the good things we have accomplished. We all owe everything to God and to his Blessed Mother for the good things we have received. There are areas of improvement we could have had, but that is history. I put it all back in the hands of the Lord and we keep moving ahead.

**The Angelus: Did you ever see yourself setting down roots for almost 29 years in one diocese?**

**Bishop Pfeifer:** When I was first named bishop, I started calculating from where I was in life until I would reach the age of 75. That was going to be 27 years or such and I wondered, ‘Will I make it 27 years?’ Where will I be? I had a wonderment and uncertainty. With God’s grace and blessing I made it through more than 27 years to 28½ years. I am grateful to the Lord. There have been some mistakes and I ask the Lord’s pardon for those. I have a lot of gratitude. Today, as I look at the Mass, the satisfaction is really dampened because we are on the eve of the most drastic and terrible decision of our Supreme Court, 41 years ago, giving he right to kill the unborn. Pro-life has been my No. 1 ministry, and the satisfaction I would feel now I find it hard to be in a celebration or thanksgiving mindset knowing we are on the eve of what brought about the death of over 56 million babies in the country. I can’t really have a spirit of joy because it just bothers me so much that it can happen in our country and there be so many killed, and thousands in the Planned Parenthood centers of our diocese. Thank God those centers are gone.

**The Angelus: That has to be a high point of your time here to know it happened under your watch?**

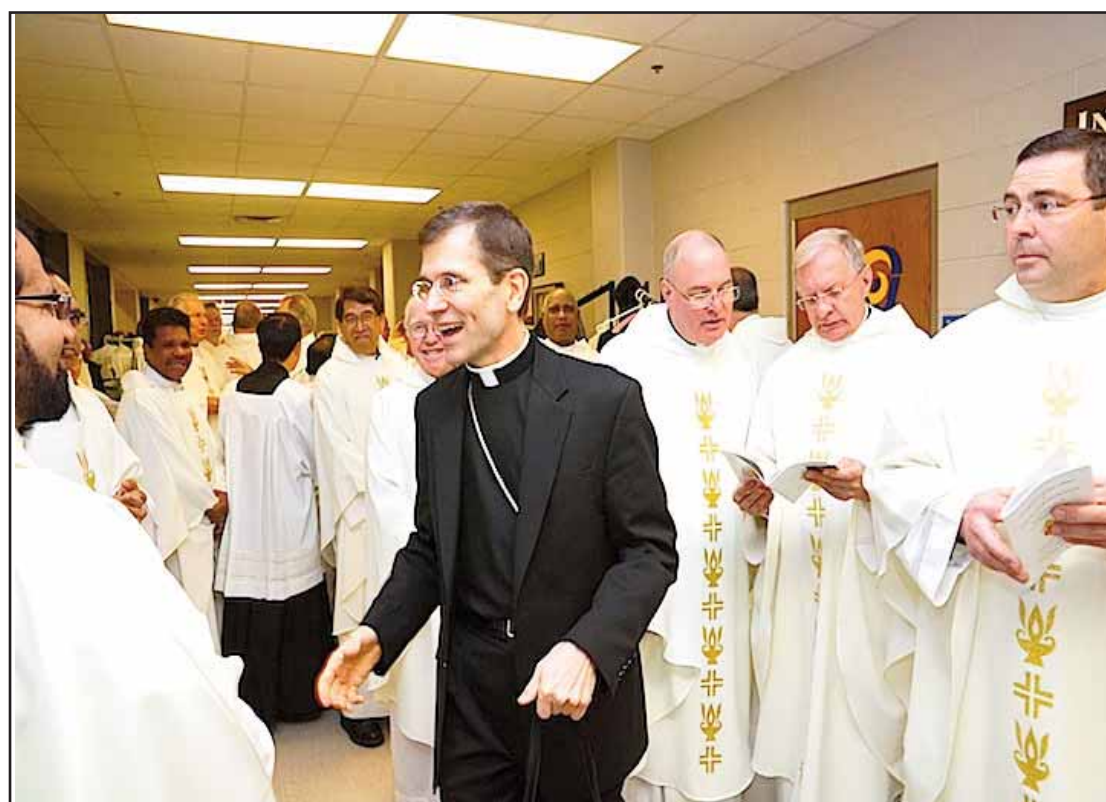
**Bishop Pfeifer:** It was a cooperative

effort, working together, pleading and getting people involved in this issue. It was by God’s own design with the help of the Texas Legislature that it all came together. Pope Francis, in his letter, ‘The Joy of the Gospel,’ mentions that, too. The church in many ways has failed women, especially those who are contemplating abortion we have not reached out too enough.

**The Angelus: Another positive during your almost 29 years has to be the amount of growth the Catholic faith has experienced in the diocese?**

**Bishop Pfeifer:** I was sharing with Chuck Sturgeon, one of the main builders in our diocese. He was reflecting and he said he and I had been involved in the building renovations or expansions of close to 100 buildings. In recent years, even though we had a recession, when we had to downsize the economy, we were building a number of buildings, thank God, that came to fruition and were paid for. We just completed a new church in Iraan, that has been one of my great goals. We have a big new building in Rowena. They just finished remodeling the whole inside of the church, and are doing that also in Olfen. Msgr. Droll plans to build a gathering hall in Lenorah, that’s another project I was hoping to move forward. We also have a

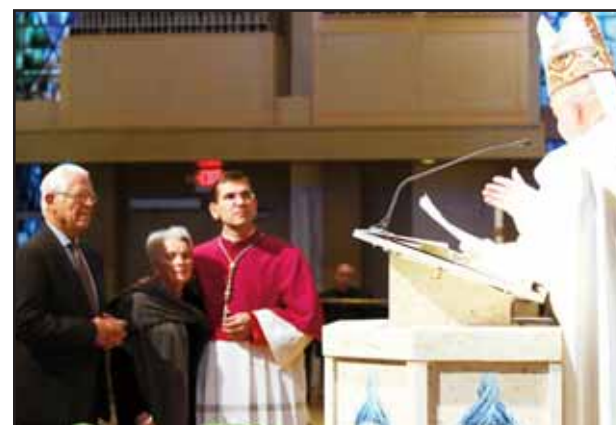
(Please See PFEIFER/22)



Top photo, a combined student choir, made up of students from Angelo Catholic School, in San Angelo; St. Ann's in Midland, and St. Mary's Catholic School in Odessa, sings during the Ordination and Installation Mass. Above, then Bishop-elect Sis signs his Oath of Fidelity during Solemn Vespers, Sunday, January 26. At left, the soon-to-be new bishop visits with deacons and priests prior to his ordination.



The Ordination and  
Installation of  
Most Reverend  
Michael J. Sis  
January 27, 2014

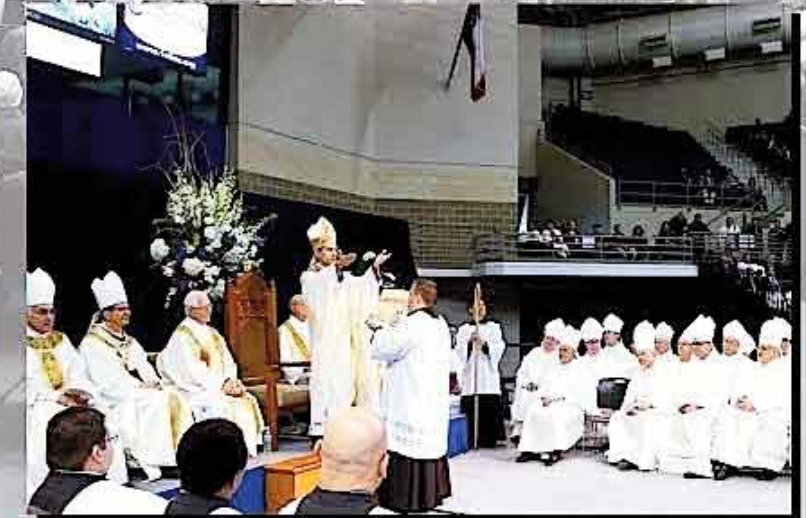
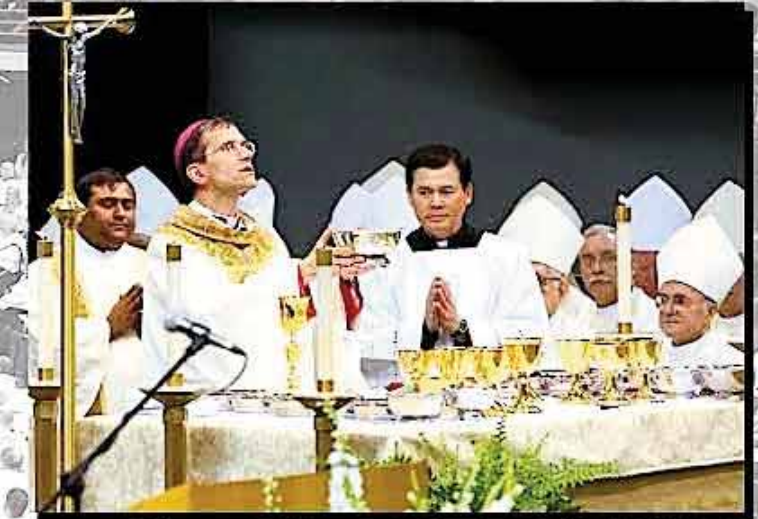


Top right, and bottom right, scenes from Solemn Vespers and, above, 4th degree Knights of Columbus prepare for Bishop Sis' Ordination and Installation Mass at the Junell Center on the campus of Angelo State University. Top left, Bishop Sis greets the people at the conclusion of the ordination.

Photos by Alan P. Torre / aptorre.com



# The Ordination to the Order of Bishop of The Most Reverend Michael J. Sis, STL, DD



The Ordination and  
Installation of  
Most Reverend  
Michael J. Sis  
January 27, 2014

Images from the Ordination and Installation of  
Most Reverend Michael J. Sis, Sixth Bishop of San  
Angelo, January 27, 2014, at The Junell Center,  
Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas.



Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, fifth Bishop of San Angelo, processes out of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Tuesday, January 21, 2014, following his Farewell Mass of Thanksgiving. At right, the bishop delivers his final homily. (Photos by Alan P. Torre).

## Bishop Pfeifer bids farewell at Mass filled with thankfulness, forgiveness

By Jimmy Patterson  
Editor / West Texas Angelus

SAN ANGELO — In a poignant and all-encompassing message at his Farewell Mass of Thanksgiving, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, bid farewell to a crowded Sacred Heart Cathedral. Woven through his homily were messages of gratitude and forgiveness. Bishop Pfeifer's message was to be his final homily after 28 1/2 years of shepherding, although he did deliver some thoughts prepared for the Solemn Vespers prayer service Sunday, January 26, for his successor, Bishop Michael J. Sis.

Long an outspoken advocate for the unborn, Bishop Pfeifer's message not surprisingly began with words for the smallest of the living.

"There is immense love in my heart this evening for the precious unborn. There is so much satisfaction I want to feel this evening that is taken away because it is the eve of the most dreadful,

drastic and deadly decision of the highest court in this land 41 years ago that sadly gave legal permission to destroy these tiny human beings. Over 56 million children have been killed through abortion, thousands right here in our own diocese. I thank God these death centers have closed their doors in recent months. My heart bleeds for the thousands of precious unborns who died in those death centers through abortion."

Bishop Pfeifer asked forgiveness for the thousands and thousands killed and "For myself and others who have not done enough for them."

The bishop's message of thankfulness was often repeated. The hungry, homeless, poor, abused, neglected, sick, young, old, working and many others were thanked for what all they have taught him during not just his time as bishop but throughout his priesthood and life.

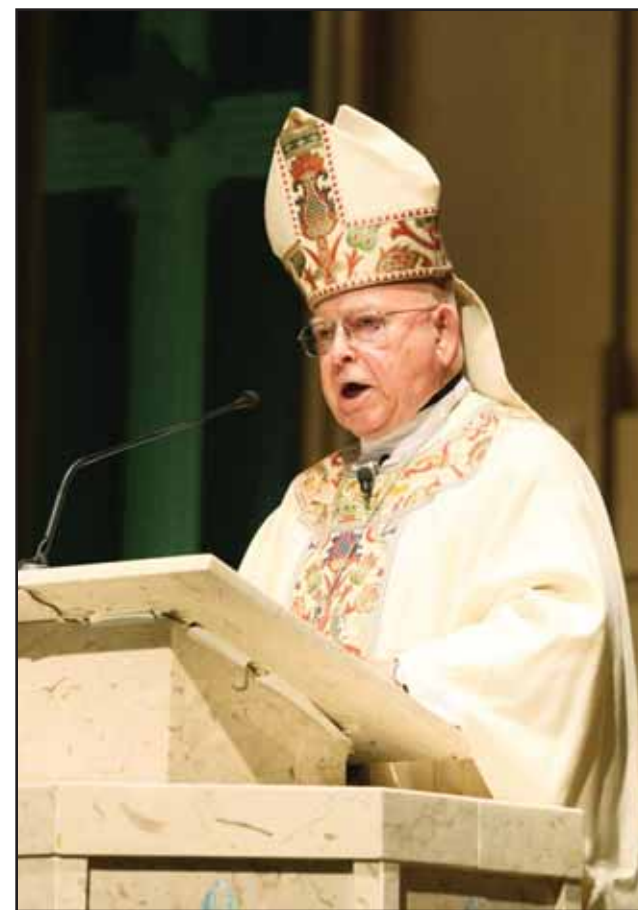
"I am grateful and thankful for the children who have always inspired me and taught me some of the deepest lessons in life: That to go to heaven we

must all be like children. I have much gratitude and thankfulness to so many women who struggle with life's decisions and who have taught me the many ways through their struggles to trust God to help them choose life and keep their children for adoption.

"I am thankful to the poor and abandoned who taught me that a renewed spirit of faith through suffering and to keep the beatitude, 'Blessed are the poor, they are the first in the kingdom of God.'

"I am sorrowful for the victims of crime: sexual, spiritual, abuse, and emotional abuse who remind me that anything that hurts a person destroys the image of God in each one of them. I especially am sorrowful for and ask for forgiveness for those who have been the victims for clergy abuse, and I offer them my comfort, support and prayers, and thank God for the many positive ways our church has finally addressed these issues head-on in recent years."

Bishop Pfeifer, who gained a well-deserved reputation as a teaching bishop through his homilies and many articles in



the *West Texas Angelus* in his service to West Texas Catholics, told the faithful assembled at the cathedral that it was the messages taught him by so many others that helped make him who he was.

Often, Bishop Pfeifer said, God sends grace to us through others. "I thank our loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the times that have manifested themselves in a direct way, realizing God was teaching me through others.

God, the bishop said, has used others as a mediator for him.

"I am immensely grateful and appreciative to those who taught me through their witness, word, suffering, sacrifice and spirit of love how to love in the image of Christ and how to live the Sermon on the Mount, not that I always do."

Bishop Pfeifer looked hopefully toward the future of the church, noting the spirited leadership of Bishop Sis, the increase in seminarians, lay volunteers, the prayerfulness of the Carmelite sisters and hermits, and the dedicated workers at the pastoral center.

# *The Six Bishops of* The Diocese of San Angelo



The Most Rev.  
Thomas Drury  
*First Bishop of San Angelo*  
1962-1965

The Most Rev. Thomas Drury, a native of Balleynote, Ireland, spent just four years as Bishop of San Angelo, but in many ways they were four of the most important years in the history of the West Texas See.

Drury was appointed first Bishop of San Angelo by Pope Paul VI. He served in that capacity from January 24, 1962 until July 19, 1965, when he was named fourth bishop of Corpus Christi.

Archival issues of the *Concho Register*, which preceded the *West Texas Register* and *West Texas Angelus*, reported the

following upon news of Drury's installation in Corpus:

"The first bishop of San Angelo leaves behind a real missionary area of 42,000 square miles, with a total population of 600,000 and more than 61,000 Catholics.

"During his years of service, as spiritual shepherd of the Diocese of San Angelo, Bishop Drury worked most diligently on his efforts to get the new diocese on its feet. Drury has seen to it that approximately 15 or more new churches and chapels have been constructed."

During his time as bishop here, Drury also guided and completed a census of the diocese; established the diocesan newspaper, which eventually became the *West Texas Angelus*, still in circulation 25 years later; consecrated the Cathedral; had the diocese placed under the principal patronage of St. Michael the Archangel and the secondary patronage of St. Pius X.

Drury also began the diocese's application of the Sacred Constitution on the Liturgy and began the tithing program here.

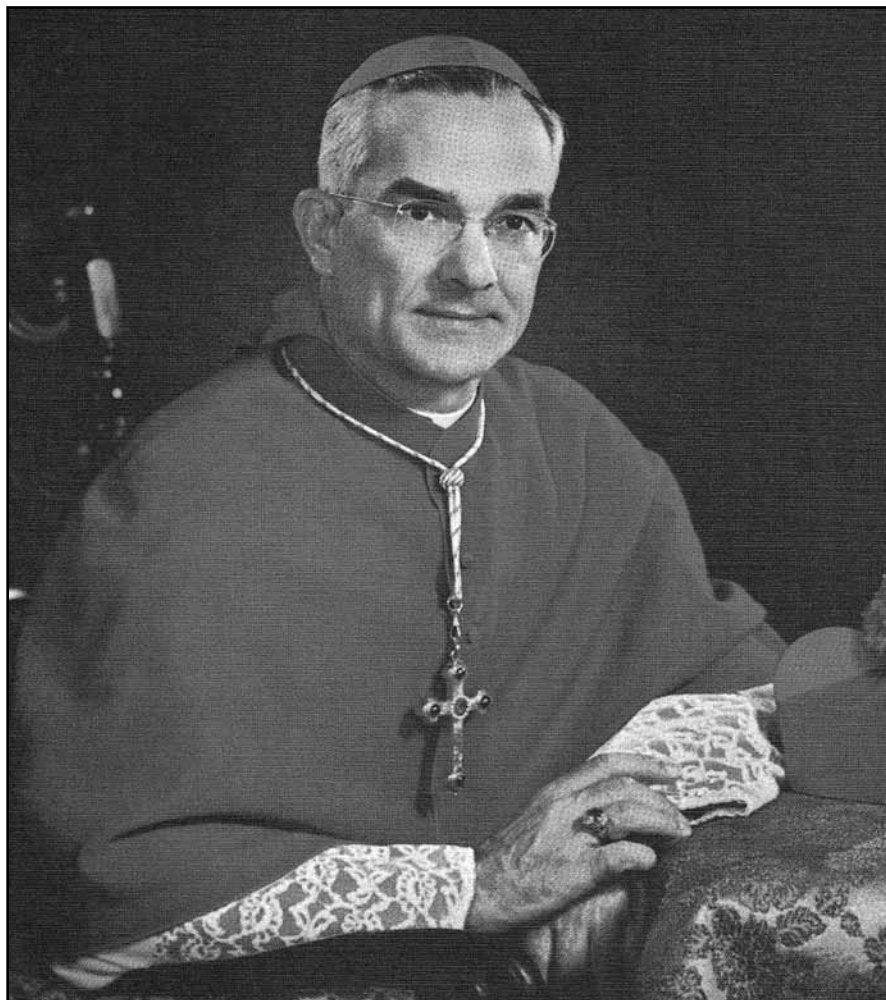
Drury showed great devotion to

both vocations and Catholic education in the early 1960s, and also developed the ecumenical movement in the diocese, including a January 1964 inter-faith prayer service in San Angelo.

Two young men in the Diocese of San Angelo entered the priesthood through Drury's encouragement, as well as another three by way of the apostolic delegate. The year he would assume his apostolate in Corpus Christi, another four men would enter the priesthood in the Diocese of San Angelo.

Drury died in 1992.

## The Six Bishops of The Diocese of San Angelo



### The Most Rev. Thomas Tschoepe

*Second Bishop of San Angelo  
1966-1969*

The Most Rev. Thomas Tschoepe, the second bishop of San Angelo, may have been here for a mere three years but he will forever hold one distinction: he was the first native Texan to serve as Bishop of San Angelo.

Originally from Pilot Point, Bishop Tschoepe, who would spend most of his life in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth area, was ordained Bishop of San Angelo, March 6, 1966. He was called to serve as Bishop of Dallas on October 29, 1969, where he would remain until his retirement in 1990.

When Tschoepe assumed the apostolate of San Angelo from its first bishop, Thomas Drury, the diocese

was still in its relative infancy. News of Tschoepe's appointment as bishop led his superior, Bishop Thomas Gorman, to say, "(Bishop Tschoepe) has come to be known as an effective administrator by the clergy and the people of the Diocese of Dallas.

"As one closely associated with him for many years in the development of the diocese, I feel very sure that he will ... continue the progress already made since the creation of that diocese and that the clergy, religious and people of San Angelo have every reason to be congratulated on having Bishop-elect Tschoepe as their pastor and bishop."

At a press conference following the

announcement of his appointment, Bishop Tschoepe spoke with his trademark humility.

"It is another appointment we have to take," he said. "We promise obedience. I had no ambition to be a bishop. I always wanted to be a priest, though, ever since I was a kid."

Mary Sue Brewer, who has served as an assistant to each of the five bishops in the diocese's 50 year history, recalls Bishop Tschoepe in a number of ways, mostly as "a quiet and humble man" who preferred phone calls and in-person meetings to written correspondence.

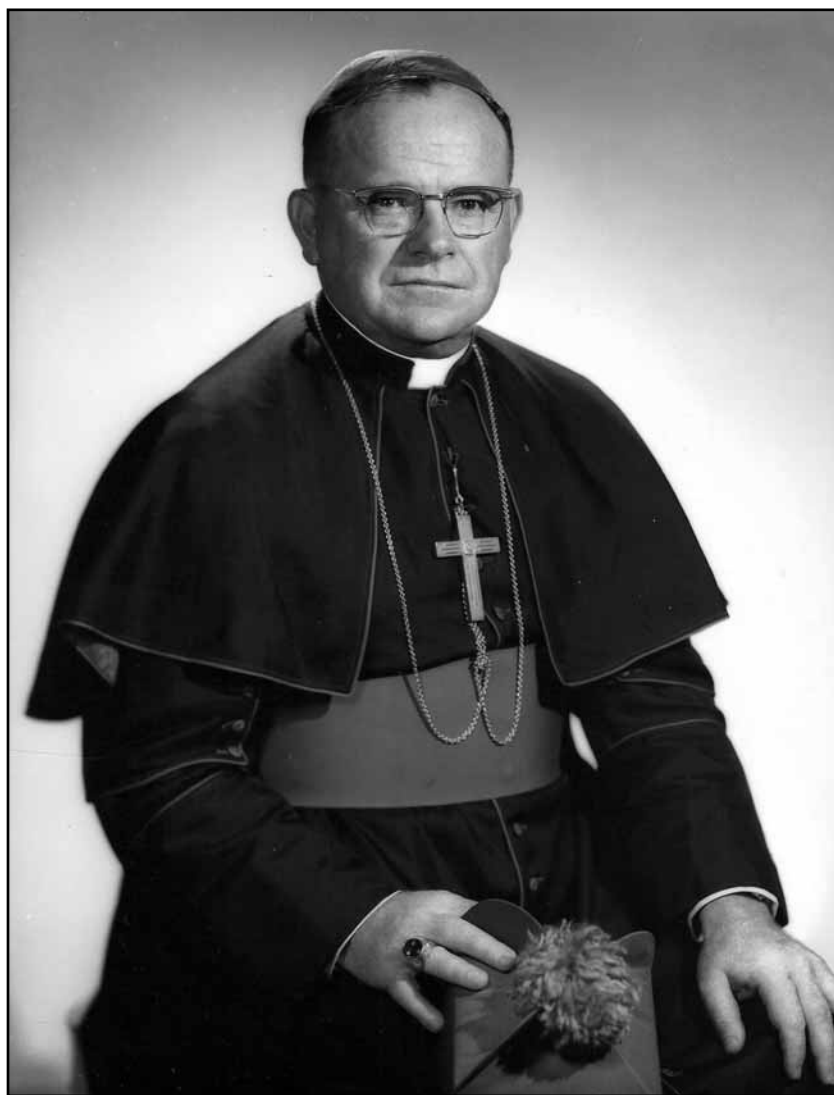
"Bishop Tschoepe's cousin was a

bishop in the diocese where the University of Notre Dame was located, so every year he drove up to attend one of their football games, and every year he tossed me a speeding ticket he would always get on the long drive."

Bishop Tschoepe retired as Bishop of Dallas on July 14, 1990. During the early part of his retirement he lived and served at St. Joseph's parish in Waxahachie, and in his later years he lived at the St. Joseph Retirement Center in Dallas, where he died on January 24, 2009, at 93.

## The Six Bishops of The Diocese of San Angelo

### The Most Rev. Stephen Leven



*Third Bishop of San Angelo  
1969-1979*

For nearly 10 years, from October 22, 1969 to April 16, 1979, the Diocese of San Angelo was shepherded by its third bishop, the Most Rev. Stephen Leven, of Blackwell, Oklahoma.

Leven was known as a street preacher before and even during his time as bishop here. He began a series of open air talks given on courthouse lawns, in vacant lots and on street corners as far back as 1932. He would use the time to explain the teachings of the Catholic Church. Forty-seven years later, almost a decade after being installed, he was forced to step down as San Angelo bishop for health reasons.

In December of 1978, he underwent six cardiac bypasses. An illness that slowed him considerably would follow and finally hasten his retirement.

The *West Texas Angelus*, known then as the *Texas Concho Register*, recorded Leven's words when he was installed as Bishop of San Angelo in 1969.

"It is with great joy and total commitment that I prepare to follow in the footsteps of two great young bishops who labored strenuously to nurture the seeds of faith already deeply planted in your hearts."

Within a week of his ordination as bishop, Leven had celebrated Mass at every deanery within the diocese and within a month he had visited every parish and mission.

Leven said he felt meeting parishioners throughout the diocese was important and he would brush off any notion of self sacrifice because of the great distances traveled in what had become known as a "frontier" diocese. Leven noted at the time that the parishes were so few and far between, Catholics in West Texas were virtual strangers to one another.

"Bishop Leven immediately sensed the lack of unity in the diocese and knew that it would be the most serious problem he would encounter in his new assignment," the *Register* reported. "He also realized that without a sense of community in the diocese little could be accomplished to build up the Church."

He proceeded to set forth an 11 year plan for more cohesiveness in the diocese, by encouraging parish and pastoral councils to foster diocesan-wide communications.

"We have to see our problems together and then go after them together," Leven said.

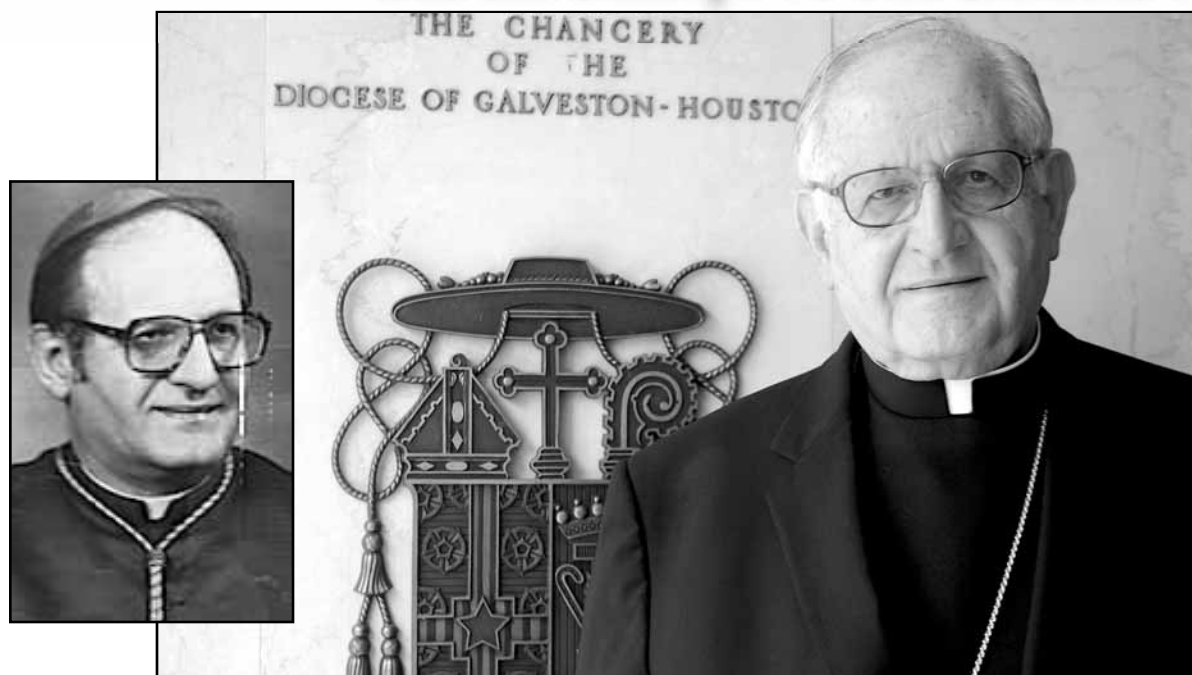
His tenure would also be marked by his support of Catholic Women's concerns, specifically the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, which he widely supported through his life in the Church.

Leven would also establish the separation of the Catholic school administration from the diocesan CCD office, and his changes would prompt Sister Mary Eva Geiskopf, OLVN, one of the program's supervisors, to note that Leven came, listened, acted and provided what was needed to better the religious education needs of the diocese.

He would also establish the permanent deacon program, a program that, at the time, permitted men to preach, teach, conduct marriage ceremonies and funerals and baptize. In 1977, after the first two diaconate classes had graduated, 63 men had been ordained, which doubled the number of clergy in the diocese.

The third bishop of the diocese was also responsible for the establishment of Catholic Charities, as well as the reorganization of the Diocesan Pastoral Council program.

## The Six Bishops of The Diocese of San Angelo



### The Most Rev. Joseph Fiorenza

*Fourth Bishop of San Angelo  
1979-1984*

The Most Rev. Joseph Fiorenza, fourth bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo, was involved in many things that set forward diocesan progress: the establishment of Christ the King Retreat Center and the adjacent chancery; the settlement of many religious orders in the diocese, and the beginnings of two of the largest parishes: St. Stephen in Midland and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Odessa.

There were other physical accomplishments, to be sure, but in the five brief years he served as bishop (1979-84), Fiorenza, currently Archbishop Emeritus of Galveston-Houston, feels that perhaps his longest lasting accomplishment while here was something more intangible.

"I think you would have to ask the priests, but I think the thing I hope I achieved that was most important was to help the people in West Texas feel they were a part of the larger church, a diocesan family; that they were not separate and individual congregations with no relationship to other churches; that they were part of a larger family over which there was a chief shepherd, the bishop," Fiorenza said in 2010 from his chancery in Houston. "If that idea was

successful then I think that would be my best achievement. They were beginning to understand it when I left, and Bishop Pfeifer, who is a great bishop and a wonderful holy man, has pushed that same idea."

Fiorenza said it was not uncommon to find congregationalism in many of the parishes when he began his tenure as bishop in San Angelo in September 1979.

"When I went to San Angelo that was the mentality," he remembered. "It was more congregationalist. The people knew there was a bishop but they weren't quite sure who he was or what he was supposed to do. A lot of the small towns of West Texas are far removed from the bishop and they didn't quite understand that they were part of a larger church. They thought the congregation was the congregation and that was not unusual for a small diocese."

One of Fiorenza's main developments was the retreat center, which, once built, became the first place where Catholics or -- as it would prove later on -- people of any number of religions could congregate. Like many other things he accomplished, Fiorenza built the retreat

center to bring people together.

"We had no place to gather people," he said. "Priests would go into San Antonio to make their retreats. We just needed to help the people of a large area have the sense they all belonged to the same diocesan family."

Fiorenza's first task as bishop was establishing Midland's St. Stephen's parish, amid much controversy. The church had been approved by Fiorenza's predecessor, Bishop Leven, but the Oblates in the diocese squelched the establishment of St. Stephen's, saying Leven was not well when he signed papers declaring it so.

"The Oblates objected to the starting of a new parish there," Fiorenza said. "It's sad, but it's history. They objected to Rome that the parish was started while Bishop Leven was ill and that he didn't do the proper consultation. That caused a big eruption. After Leven died and they made this objection, it became a contentious issue and the apostolic delegate suppressed it and said wait till you get a new bishop and he will resolve it."

Fiorenza was that new bishop and would, after awhile, finalize the establishment of St. Stephen's.

The priest's pension fund was down

to \$25 when Fiorenza came to San Angelo. His decision to sell the bishop's mansion along the Concho River helped rescue the fund from being nearly penniless. When the fund was headed in the right direction, Fiorenza and the diocese would purchase a smaller house on San Angelo's southwest side, still in use by Bishop Sis today.

Fiorenza is a Houstonian through and through, and in fact with the exception of the five years he served as bishop in San Angelo, spent his entire life in and around Houston and the Coastal Bend region. When he was appointed bishop in West Texas, he knew he was in for something far different than what he was used to.

"I was going to San Angelo without great knowledge or experience of West Texas whatsoever. I quickly came to like it very much. San Angelo is a very nice city but compared to Houston it was very, very small. It was a different experience for me, and an enjoyable one; I loved the wide-open spaces. The diocese was just getting started. As a newly ordained bishop with a lot of enthusiasm I was very anxious to be able to serve that Church very well."

## The Six Bishops of The Diocese of San Angelo



### The Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer

*Fifth Bishop of San Angelo,  
1985-2013*

## Thank you for your love, support, friendship, service and many prayers

**Editor's Note: The following is Bishop Michael Pfeifer's farewell letter to the people of the Diocese of San Angelo.**

**By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI**

Dear brother priests and all people of God of the Diocese of San Angelo:

How can I ever adequately and sufficiently thank all of you for the prayers, for the spiritual support, for the friendship, for the kindness, many favors and gifts that you have given me during the time that I have been your main shepherd as the Bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo? I would like to write each one of you a special "thank you" letter especially to those who came to my Mass of Thanksgiving and Farewell, and for the many greetings that you shared with me, for the many prayers you offered for me, and for your love and many gifts. As I do not have enough time to send a personal note to each one of you, I send this note of gratitude to all the faithful of the Diocese in this final article in the *Angelus* as we

receive our new shepherd, Bishop Michael Sis.

I am indeed very thankful that some of you were present at my Mass of Thanksgiving, and with all of you, first and foremost, I thank Christ for the many blessings that have been showered upon the Diocese, upon all of you and me during the twenty-eight and a half years that I have been your main shepherd. And, with all of you, I thank our dear Blessed Mother, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, for her many kindnesses, for her love and maternal protection and care down through the years.

As I leave the Diocese, I ask you to give our new bishop your total love and support, your prayers, your witness, and your patience and cooperation as he begins to lead our Diocese as the main human shepherd under the guidance of our great eternal Shepherd, Jesus Christ. God has blessed us with a wonderful new shepherd. Love him, pray for him and support him.

Stay focused on Christ, on His Gospel, on the truth, and keep working for justice and peace, and keep reaching out especially to our brothers and sisters who are most in need. I remind you once again

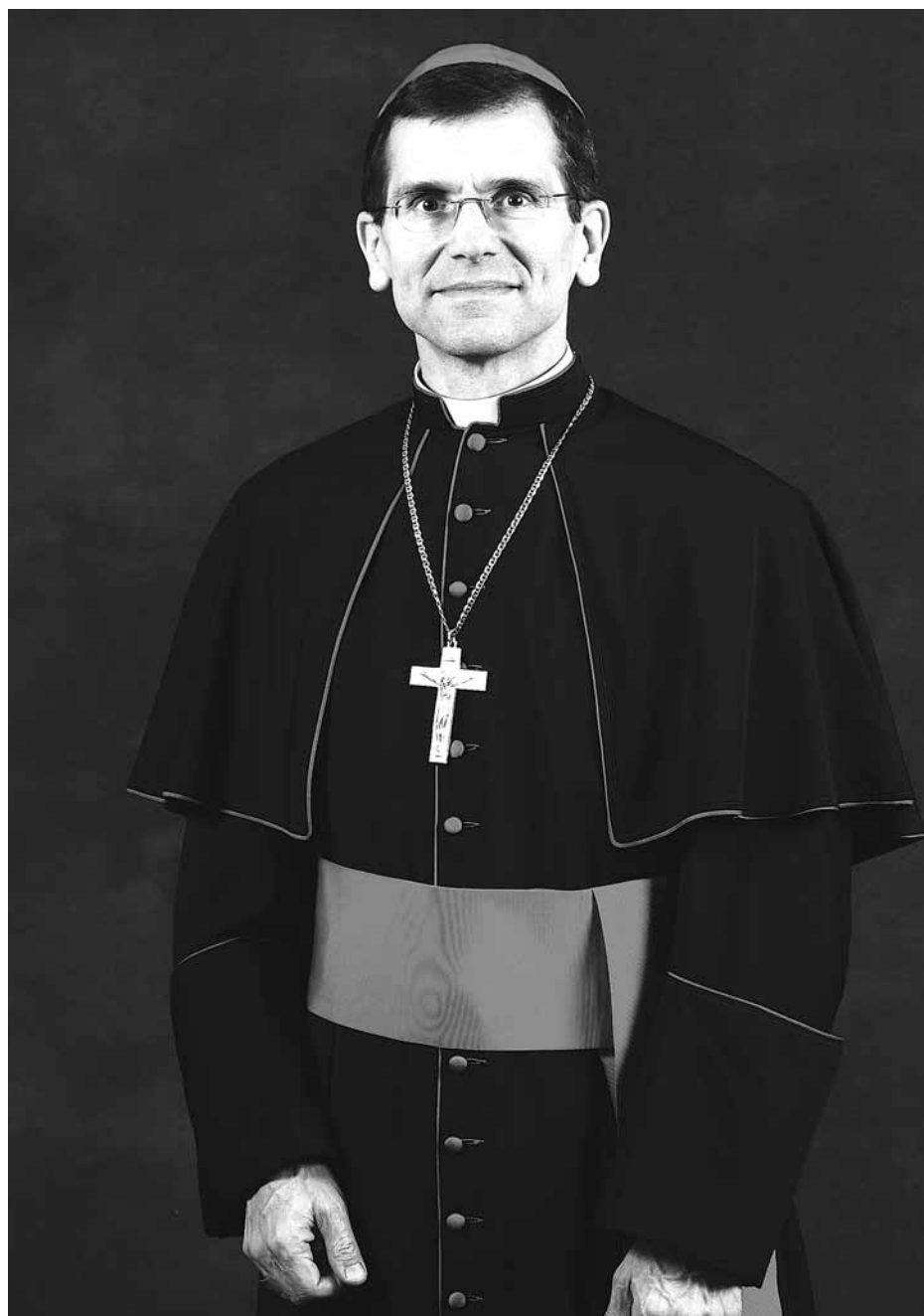
that the main ministry we have chosen together for our Diocese is Marriage and Family Life. The more we work together to build up and make strong each family in faith, hope and love, the stronger and richer will be our Church and all of society. And, under this, our number one priority is praying and actively working to support and protect the precious unborn and to help women who struggle with a pregnancy decision, and helping them to always choose in favor of life. They need to know there are many life options, but they need your support, love and assistance. Be pro-life at every stage of life.

A final word – Pope Francis is constantly calling us as followers of Christ, as Catholics, to focus on the poor and needy with their many, many faces in our world. And there are many of them right here in our own Diocese. To assist them, in your families and in our pastoral meetings and discussions, always look at ways of living putting into practice the basic Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. My wish for you is God's peace and joy, and I assure you that I will never forget you, and I will always be praying for you. Please offer a little prayer for me now and then.

## The Six Bishops of The Diocese of San Angelo

### The Most Rev. Michael J. Sis

*(Sixth Bishop of San Angelo  
January 27, 2014 -*



Before his appointment as sixth Bishop of San Angelo, December 12, 2013, the Most Rev. Michael J. Sis was the Vicar General and the Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Austin. He was appointed by Bishop Joe S. Vasquez in June of 2010.

Bishop Sis grew up in Bryan. He is the son of Raymond and Janice Sis. Born on January 9, 1960, he is the fourth of five children. His siblings are Susan Sis-Boyd of Georgetown; Valerie Bourque of Salado; Mark Sis of Broomfield, Colo., and Amy Short of Pearland. He has seven nieces and nephews and two great-nephews.

He attended St. Joseph Catholic School and Bryan Public Schools in Bryan. He graduated from Bryan High School in 1978. He earned an undergraduate degree in Philosophy in 1982 from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., where he attended Moreau Seminary. He studied Theology at the North American College in Rome, receiving degrees from the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1985 and the Alphonsian Academy of the Pontifical Lateran University in 1990. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Austin in 1986 by Bishop John E. McCarthy.

Bishop Sis has served in a variety of roles in the Diocese of Austin. His first assignment was in Hispanic ministry at Cristo Rey Parish in East Austin. He assisted Bishop John E. McCarthy and Msgr. Edward C. Matocha in the administration of historic St. Mary Cathedral in downtown Austin. His longest term of service was in campus ministry at St. Mary Catholic Center at Texas A&M University in College Station, serving first as parochial vicar, then as pastor, for a total of 13 years. Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond then appointed him in 2006 as full-time Vocation Director for the Diocese of Austin. Then, after serving

one year as pastor of the large suburban parish of St. Thomas More in Austin, he was named Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia by Bishop Joe S. Vasquez in 2010.

In his role as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, he assisted Bishop Vasquez as coordinator of diocesan administration and as supervisor of the secretariat directors.

Over the years, Bishop Sis has served as a member of the Presbyteral Council, the Priest Personnel Board, the College of Consultors, the Vocation Team, the Permanent Diaconate Admissions Committee, and the Bishop's Advisory Council. He also served as Dean of the Bryan-College Station Deanery.

Some of the most formative experiences that have helped shape his life of Christian faith have been the following: the training he received from his parents at home; his participation as a teenager in the religious education and CYO programs of St. Anthony Parish in Bryan; volunteer service in Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America; his academic and seminary studies; a summer of volunteer missionary service in Tanzania, East Africa; working with Ethiopian refugees in Rome; teaching religion at Marymount International School in Rome; making the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola; celebrating the Catholic sacraments as a parish priest, especially Confession and the Eucharist; pastoral ministry with Hispanic immigrants in Texas; campus ministry with the students of Texas A&M; ecumenical and inter-religious collaboration; the Cursillo and Awakening retreats; assisting in the formation of seminarians; the good example of fellow priests; the influence of friends; and the experience of spiritual direction. He considers his most precious treasure to be his personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

*Life with the Bishops***Mary Sue Brewer has been assistant to all 5 (now 6) San Angelo bishops**

**(Editor's Note: Mary Sue Brewer began work at the Diocese of San Angelo in February 1962. She has served as an assistant to every bishop that has served the diocese. Several years ago, Mary Sue shared some of her thoughts about working with the diocese for so long. Her words are included here.)**

The first chancery office was opened in a building next to Angelo Catholic School, and I started working on February 19, 1962.

I love my job. It's a lot of hard work but I hope I am making a difference in people's lives. I have worked with some wonderful bishops and priests, and a lot of good people through the years.

My greatest challenge has been to adapt to each new bishop as each one is very different in their styles of ministry. Bishop Thomas Drury, the first bishop, was Irish, from County Sligo in Ireland. I loved his Irish brogue. He was pretty strict because he believed all must be done exactly by the rules. He was here during the years of the Second Vatican Council so he was gone a lot. He usually left in September and returned in January. Bishop Drury died in 1992. Our second bishop was Bishop

Thomas Tschoepe, who came to us from the Dallas Diocese. He was born in Pilot Point. He was a very quiet, humble man who liked to handle correspondence by phone or in person if possible. He was not a paper person but loved to do all kinds of statistics. His cousin was bishop in the diocese where the University of Notre Dame was located so every year he drove up to attend one of their football games, and every year he tossed me a speeding ticket he would always get on the long drive. He loved to tell a good joke. He liked to take a nap after lunch and we had a conference room with a big table. One day I was showing some people through the office and I opened the door and he was sound asleep on the table.

Our next bishop was Bishop Stephen Leven who had been an Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio. Bishop Leven loved sweets, fishing and all people. He spoke about eight languages. He was educated in Europe and spent seven summers there. He spoke twice at the Second Vatican Council. Bishop Leven came from Oklahoma where there were few Catholics so he would stand on

street corners and preach to the people about the church. He died in Oklahoma but is buried in Calvary Cemetery in San Angelo.

Our fourth bishop was Bishop Joseph Fiorenza. He is a very warm and hard working priest. He loved sports and was quite an athlete. He is a good cook and a scholar. I used to tease him about always having four or five books open at his house at the same time.

Our fifth bishop came in 1985. Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, came from San Antonio where he was provincial of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He was born in Alamo. I had the privilege of meeting his mother, Alice. She once told me that as a child he would always give food and clothes to the poor. She said they were not rich but "Michael always found a family who needed something and he would tell her they needed it more than his family." Bishop Pfeifer speaks several languages, especially Spanish which he speaks fluently. He loves to fish, watch movies and garden — he can grow anything. He is the hardest working man I

have ever worked for. I have told him to slow down as he and I are getting older. He is just one year older than I am, and I know I want to slow down some.

Bishop Leven and Bishop Pfeifer are similar in many ways. Both speak several languages very easily, both relate to people quickly and easily, both came from large families and both were missionaries. Bishop Leven ordained Bishop Pfeifer, so Bishop Pfeifer has a special place in his heart for Bishop Leven.

One of my most memorable moments was the day that President John Kennedy was killed. I was in my office and someone came up in the elevator. It was a rancher from Eden. He said "Mary Sue, the president is dead."

I looked down at my hand because in it I was holding a letter addressed to Bishop Drury from President Kennedy that had just come. Bishop Drury was at the Second Vatican Council so I opened all his mail. It was really a sad day. I went downstairs and there were people standing around and many were crying.

-- Mary Sue Brewer

**ORDINATION**

**(From 2)**

McCarthy and served in a variety of roles in the diocese, including St. Mary's Catholic Center across from the campus of Texas A&M University. He served St. Mary's for 13 1/2 years as pastor and parochial vicar. During his time at St. Mary's, more than 100 vocations to the priesthood and religious life came out of the campus ministry parish.

Deacon Raymond Sis, father of the new bishop, proclaimed the Gospel reading and said after the Mass, he and his entire family was "very, very happy."

"He is an exceptional person. A very spiritual, very gifted person," Deacon Sis said. "We tried to give a good example and we are hopeful he followed that example. We just did what we thought was best and he followed us."

Monsignor Larry Droll, pastor of St. Ann's Catholic Church in Midland, who served as head of the Ordination Mass planning committee in the weeks leading up to Monday's Mass, said the event was both, "majestic and prayerful."

"I was truly impressed by the number of priests who attended from all over the state and elsewhere, and the music was truly uplifting," Droll said. "I know that

Bishop Michael Sis is very happy and excited to be our bishop and we are happy to receive him."

The Rev. Bernard Getigan, pastor of San Miguel Arcangel in Midland, said during the time he served as a priest in the Philippines before coming to the United States, his diocese went through four Episcopal ordinations; however, Monday's was the first he had ever attended.

"It was so powerful and so touching to see a brother priest ordained a bishop," Getigan said. "When Bishop Sis spoke to the priests earlier this month, he and I talked about the situation in the Philippines, and he pointed out to me his experiences in Austin and what they have done to help the Filipino people."

Getigan said before Monday's ordination began, Bishop Sis approached him and greeted him, remembering their earlier meeting, an example of the new bishop's shepherding charism.

Monsignor James Bridges, pastor of St. Stephen's Catholic Church, also attended the Mass, calling it very impressive and saying the diocese seemed to have landed a man with much talent in a short period of time.

"The new bishop is 54, but he looks 40

and he is raring to go," Bridges said.

Bishop Sis closed the Mass by choosing three words on which to focus during a brief message, a move reminiscent of Pope Francis, who frequently begins his homilies by telling his audience he has three words on which he would like to focus before expounding on them.

Sis' words were gratitude, prayer and hope. He thanked his predecessor, Bishop Pfeifer, for 28 1/2 years of service, his family and many others.

"As I take on this responsibility I am conscious of my own limitations and understand the magnitude of the task of serving as a diocesan bishop," he said. "It is an awesome responsibility for which God will hold me accountable. I am very conscious of that. Please pray for me and for all the people of the Diocese of San Angelo so that God may give us all the grace we need to carry out our mission in a way that reflects the love of Jesus Christ."

"Through all of our joys, pains, struggles and dreams, the risen Lord Jesus has promised that he will be with us until the end of time, and I believe his promise. He will never abandon us. Jesus is the reason for our hope."

The Diocese of San Angelo was formed

out of the Diocese of Amarillo in 1961. It has 56 active priests who serve 47 parishes and 22 missions in 29 counties, and it covers 37,000 square miles of West Texas, from Andrews, east to Abilene, south to the Mexican border and west to the New Mexico border. The diocese is roughly the size of the state of Indiana.

**Visiting bishops at Ordination**

Archbishop Gregory Aymond, New Orleans; Bishop Edmond Carmody, Tyler; Bishop Oscar Cantu, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Archbishop Paul Coakley, Oklahoma; Bishop Kevin Farrell and Bishop Douglas Deshotel, Dallas; Bishop David Fellhauer, Victoria; Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza, Houston; Bishop Curtis Guillory, Beaumont; Bishop Daniel Flores, Brownsville; Bishop Michael Mulvey, Corpus Christi; Bishop Michael Olson, Fort Worth; Bishop Raymond Pena, Brownsville; Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI; Bishop Placido Rodriguez, Lubbock; Bishop Mark Seitz, El Paso; Bishop George Sheltz, Houston; Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, San Antonio; Bishop James Tamayo, Laredo; Bishop Michael Sis, San Angelo; Bishop Joseph Strickland, Tyler; Bishop Anthony Taylor, Little Rock; Bishop Joe Vasquez, Austin; Archbishop Carlo Viganò, Nuncio; Bishop Patrick Zurek, Amarillo.

# PFEIFER

(From 9)

building for expansion in Eldorado. We are completing the work of the building in Sonora, building classrooms in a new hall. Those are some of the projects, but in the past 5-10 years we have classrooms at Holy Redeemer in Odessa; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton has a really nice new youth center, there's a new hall at St. Stephen's, Msgr. Droll has the St Ann's Chapel and Commons. Then on the south side San Miguel Arcangel. About that time when we were doing all these, we expanded the church in Junction, too. People have given generously to build or maintain new church buildings.

**The Angelus: Anything you wish you could do over?**

**Bishop Pfeifer:** As I look back, there are a number of things I would have done differently. I find it strange when someone comes to the end of their time and they say, 'I would have done nothing differently.' I say that can't be true because that means that person learned nothing along the way and is instead saying 'I knew it all' and 'I learned it all.' Looking back I could have been more present. I would have liked to have done more. I would have like to have seen us all do more in the field of justice and peace. So many issues and we have done a lot. We have a lot of immigrants. They

are in the shadows but when they see you after Mass and have the courage to come talk to you, that says something. I did initiate two immigration offices, but feel we could have done much more for the unborn. Also, I could have done more and we could have done more in writing letters and columns to the papers about these critical issues. I could have been more understanding of people around me I work with. I received a lot of advice but I could have learned more from them. There are hundreds of people I work with on councils, committees, staff, and I could have listened more to them and perhaps something would have been done better. From the first year I came into the diocese, I was developing a Day of Listening. We had listening sessions in every deanery. We collated that with the presbyteral council, took months to do that, and by listening, we hired a priest full time by listening. They also thought there should be more of a contemplative presence. As a result of the Day of Listening, the Carmelite sisters have been here 25 years. By listening you pick up on things. You can't do everything, but you can pick up on a lot of things that lead you to do things differently. Another thing is the whole area of vocations. One of the best decisions we made was 15 years ago or so, we listened to the personnel board and they read the names of potential vocations directors. The council asked me who I would

name. We chose Fr. Barry McLean. He made a huge turn around in our vocations. We ordained four last year, one this year and three next year.

**The Angelus: What are your thoughts on Pope Francis?**

**Bishop Pfeifer:** He is a true gift to the spirit of the church. He's given a different approach to the church in the world. He is calling us back to some of the basics, bringing us back to the grassroots level and reminding us that we are supposed to be a church for and with the poor. We sometimes get away from that. He has simplified the papacy. I don't know what Peter the first pope, would have thought about some of the popes we have today, We also fall into the culture thing in these times. But Pope Francis is calling out the current state of the culture. He is saying here is the way Christ would want us to be. People have applauded him for that. Because they see this man is bringing us back with the spirit the way things should be. He is reaching out and making us more conscious of the poor, the needy and the repressed, and he is doing it in a much more dramatic way. I like some of his phrases. He says he doesn't want their to be any airport bishops. In the "Joy of the Gospel," he uses language in the Church I've never heard. He said, 'I don't want any sourpusses in the Church.' How do you say that in Italian? I don't know. But

he is using phrases we can relate to. His thing is the church is like a battlefield and we are to take care of injured, sick and abandoned.

**The Angelus: What's ahead in retirement?**

**Bishop Pfeifer:** Well, it's something new, so I don't know fully what it is all about. I know I have gotten older. My energy is still high but not like it used to be. I realize it is time to make a change for the good of the church, for me, for the people. There are certain things I am going to appreciate such as getting away from administration and being in charge. That's very cumbersome but it has had to be done. Administration in Latin is *administrare*, which means to administer the other ministries well. It will be a relief to get away from all that involves today. The whole mountain of material that comes our way, paperwork and meetings. I am looking forward to keeping active in ministry and many things as long as health permits. I am looking forward to becoming a priest again, working with people, the sick, the imprisoned, the poor, offering Mass for the people. A lot of things remain uncertain and the uncertainty makes me kind of uneasy. I know I'll be taken but I am sorry leaving the people behind. We just move ahead in the spirit of faith. The Lord has always taken care of me and he will in whatever time I have left on this planet.

# ST. MARY

(From 7)

between the university's administration and the Catholic Center. In fact, the alumni organization, The Association of Former Students of Texas A&M, named him an "Honorary Aggie."

Before Mass, there was excited anticipation. The atmosphere in the church combined joy, pride and a bit of sadness, as those present realized that God was calling their beloved priest to serve elsewhere.

Family, friends, Catholics from area parishes, university personnel, and visitors from many miles away formed a standing-room-only crowd in a church that seats 850. Their ages ranged from infants, whose parents knew the bishop-designate through campus ministry, to the elderly, who watched him grow up. Many priests concelebrated Mass, including Msgr. John Malinowski, who trained

the future bishop as an altar server. Also concelebrating was Father Patrick Ebner, who credits "Father Mike" with helping him discern his own vocation. A special moment was when Deacon Ray Sis, "Father Mike's" father, proclaimed the Gospel.

In his homily, Bishop-designate Sis thanked all for coming and said that his remarks would focus on two themes, the Gospel, and his transition to becoming a bishop. The Gospel reading for the day (Luke 5:12-16) recounts Jesus healing a man with leprosy and going off to deserted places to pray. Citing Pope Francis, the bishop-designate explained that our lives should mirror the rhythm of Jesus' life, stating, "Our prayer nourishes and sustains and prepares us for our active life."

On a personal level, Bishop-designate Sis said that he had just returned from a seven-day retreat to prepare for his own life-changing transition. He was sorry

that he had to leave behind his unfinished work as the Austin Diocese's vicar general, but he looks forward to his ordination and leading the San Angelo Diocese. This responsibility will be challenging. Bishops, as successors to the Apostles, often teach a counter-cultural message. He explained, "Being a bishop in today's world is more about guts than glory!"

In addition, he will shepherd a diocese that is demographically very different from the Austin Diocese. With ten percent of the population as Catholic, San Angelo is considered to be a "mission diocese." The approximately 85,000 Catholics are dispersed in an area larger than the state of Indiana. However, he accepts these challenges because when he was ordained a priest, he made a commitment to serve the needs of the church. When the apostolic nuncio conveyed Pope Francis' request for him to serve the people of San Angelo, after prayer and

discernment, he said "yes."

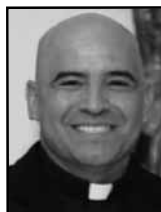
He compared this transition in life to when he was asked to serve at St. Mary's. Although he had been happy in his previous assignment and was not seeking change, he found that he loved being at St. Mary's. Likewise, he expects to love serving the people of San Angelo.

The bishop-elect's voice quavered as he asked for prayers, and he promised to remember at the altar of our Lord those he leaves behind. Addressing the priests, he said, "My brother priests, as I take this step, I go in solidarity with you." Following Mass, there was a reception to reminisce about and honor "Father Mike," who graciously posed for photographs for two hours. Deacon David Reed echoed the common sentiment shared by all, saying, "He is the embodiment of what I would want in a bishop. The people of San Angelo are blessed."

## SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH

### Tony Franco

**Date of Birth:** July 17, 1961  
**Birth Place:** Colorado City, TX  
**Any Siblings?** 9  
**What Seminary do you attend?** St. Mary's in Houston  
**What level are you in your studies?** 3rd Year Theology  
**What led you to enter into formation as a seminarian?** Jesus working through other people  
**Home Parish:** St. Ann-Colorado City  
**Favorite Saint:** St. Anthony  
**Favorite Scripture:** Sirach  
**Favorite Color:** Red  
**Favorite Sport:** Football  
**Favorite Team:** Dallas Cowboys  
**Favorite food/restaurant:** Chinese  
**Favorite Dessert:** Anything Chocolate  
**Any Hobbies:** Outdoors  
**Objectives:** Submission in joy



Franco

#### TONY'S BIO

At Mass on Sunday, August 25, 2012, I was officially accepted as a Candidate for Holy Orders. My sister had said she was sorry that she couldn't make it to such a big event. I told her it wasn't that big of a deal, that I had my sights set on next summer, when I'm made a Deacon and then the summer after that when I'm ordained a Priest, God willing. The Rite of Candidacy seemed to be just a formality, just another day, another "hurdle." Even after vesting (changing) into special clothes, I was prepared to just "get it over with." Well, things changed dramatically as we lined up for the procession. The impor-

tance of the day hit me like a...well, like a smack down from the Holy Spirit. I realized the full impact of that day's celebration. My mind raced through what I've experienced to get to this day. I was overcome with emotions and it took all my strength to not break into sobs and tears, tears of gratitude to God Almighty.

It is a big day. It is just one step, but through the Rite of Candidacy, St. Mary's Seminary and Bishop Pfeifer proclaim and make public that I am accepted to complete final preparations for ordination as a Catholic Minister. It has been quite a ride, so far. I arrived back to St. Mary's a week ago after being gone 16 months. During that time I spent a summer as a Pastoral Minister attending to patients at Lubbock Covenant Hospital, and then a year at Holy Family Parish in Abilene completing my Pastoral Year, an internship. I experienced and learned a lot at those two places. Mostly I learned that I love being the person to whom others turn. The trust, kindness and sincerity I experienced through the many people I met gave me a sweet taste of priesthood. (I am most thankful for Father Fred at Holy Family.) I experienced the humanity of people, their pains, joys and hopes. I was able to further connect with them by sharing my own experiences.

I spent this past summer at home. Much of what I had planned for the summer did not materialize. Funny things happen when you practice saying yes to others' needs. Only after you complete them do you realize it was worth it. It has been "worth it" to drop everything for Christ. I never envisioned it growing up in Colorado City. I was never even an altar boy. I usually only remember having good friends and fun. It is only on days like today that I can see my past clearer. I can see the person I really was, and that I don't want to go back to. I can see my struggles, my victories, the people of my past and present. I can see God at work through all of them. I can see the challenges ahead. I can see God carrying me further. Please pray for me. West Texas is always on my mind.

## House, Senate Contact Information

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

-- **U.S. Congressman K. Michael Conaway** (District 11-- San Angelo, Midland-Odessa, Andrews, Stanton, Crane, Rankin, Big Lake, Colorado City, Sterling City, Robert Lee, Bronte, Ballinger, Winters, Miles, Christoval, Eldorado, Junction, Menard, Eden, Melvin, Brady, Coleman, Brownwood, Sonora, McCamey, Mertzon, Sweetwater )

**Phone:** 202-225-3605

**Mailing Address:** 511 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

**Email (via Web):**

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

**Web:** <http://conaway.house.gov/>

-- **Rep. Randy Neugebauer** (District 19 -- Big Spring, Abilene, Clyde)

**Phone:** 202-225-4005

**Mailing Address:** 1424 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515

**Email (via Web):**

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

**Web:** <http://randy.house.gov/>

-- **Rep. Pete Gallego** (District 23 -- Fort Stockton, Iraan, Ozona)

**Mailing Address:** 431 Cannon HOB

Washington, DC 20515-4323

**Phone** 202-225-4511

**Web** <http://gallego.house.gov/>

### U.S. SENATE

-- **U.S. Senator John Cornyn**

**Phone:** 202-224-2934

**Mailing Address:** 517 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510

**Web:**

<http://www.cornyn.senate.gov/public/>

-- **U.S. Senator Ted Cruz**

Cruz, Ted - (R - TX) Class I

**Phone:** (202) 224-5922

**Mailing Address:** B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

### BISHOP SIS' SCHEDULE

#### February 1

San Angelo, Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Mass at 5:00 p.m.

#### February 2

Christoval, Silver Jubilee of Carmelite Sisters at 2:00 p.m.

#### February 4

San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center -- 1-4 p.m. -- Rachel Vineyard -11:45 a.m. Lunch with priests

#### February 5

San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center -- 10:00 a.m. Deacons -- Rachel Vineyard

#### February 8

San Angelo, McNease Center -- Diocesan Conference Day -- Welcome 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Mass

#### February 9

San Angelo, St. Margaret -- Install Father Chinna Pagidela as Pastor at 9:00 a.m.

#### February 11

San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center -- Presbyteral Council Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

#### February 12

Lunch with Planning Committee for Bishop Sis' Ordination at 12:00 noon

#### February 13

San Angelo, Holy Angels -- San Angelo Deanery Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

#### February 15

San Angelo -- Lunch with Sisters of the Diocese at 11:30 a.m.

#### February 16

Midland, St. Ann -- Mass at 10:45 a.m.

#### February 18

Odessa, St. Mary -- 25th Anniversary Mass of Father Santiago Udayar at 6:30 p.m.

#### February 19

San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center -- Pro Life Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

#### February 20

San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center -- Personnel Board Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

#### February 25

San Angelo, Holy Angels -- Presentation to the RCIA at 6:30 p.m.

### Catholic Schools Collection

Catholic Schools are a ministry of the whole Church community and provide an education for children from all parishes. A special collection for the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of San Angelo to assist in providing a Catholic education for all children will be held February 8-9. Please give generously in today's special collection. Thank you for your support.

### Beginnings Experience

The Beginnings Experience weekend will be hosted at Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo, April 4-6, 2014. It begins on Friday, April 4, at 8:00 p.m. and ends on Sunday, April 6, at 4:00 p.m. The cost of \$115.00 includes a room and meals. All you need for the weekend is some comfortable clothes and a willingness to heal. The Beginning Experience weekend is open to men and women of all faiths who have suffered the loss of a spouse. If you are a single parent and need assistance to come to the weekend, please go to your priest or minister and tell him about your situation. For more information you can visit [www.beginningexperience.org](http://www.beginningexperience.org) or call (432) 386-3504 or (325) 651-5352.

## Farewell to a Shepherd

The West Texas Angelus  
Official Newspaper of the  
Diocese of San Angelo, Texas  
POSTMASTER: Send all address  
changes to:  
WEST TEXAS ANGELUS  
P.O. Box 1829  
SAN ANGELO, TX 76902-1829

**Bishop Michael J. Sis**  
*Publisher*

**Jimmy Patterson**  
*Director of Communications*  
*Editor*

Member  
*Catholic News Service*  
*Catholic Press Association*  
*Texas Catholic News*

Published the first Monday follow-  
ing the 1st Saturday of each month  
and delivered to all registered  
parishioners in the San Angelo  
Diocese.

Subscription rate for all others:  
\$10 per year

THIRD CLASS POSTAGE PAID  
AT SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

Printed by the  
San Angelo Standard Times  
A Scripps-Howard Company

### Submissions:

Story suggestions, calendar items,  
parish briefs and all other  
submissions should be emailed to  
Jpatterson@

sanangelodiocese.org

### COPY, PHOTO DEADLINE:

Third Friday of every month.  
Photos should be in jpeg format.

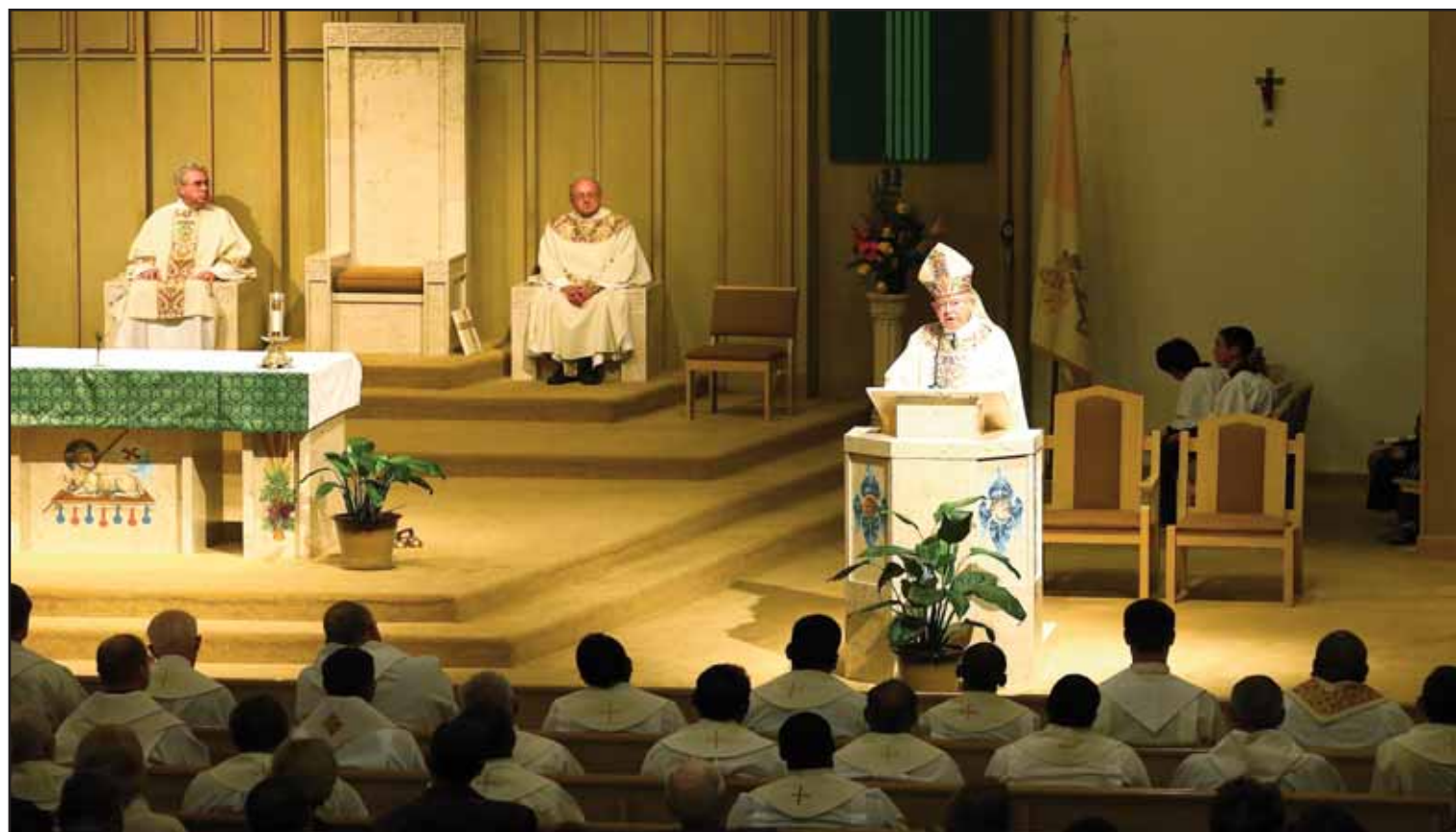
Letters to the editor are welcome,  
and should be emailed to  
Jpatterson@

sanangelodiocese.org.

Letters to the editor are printed at  
the discretion of the editor and  
identities of the writer are subject  
to verification. Please include  
name, address and phone number  
when submitting letters.



CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION  
of the United States and Canada



**Farewell**  
**Mass of Thanksgiving**  
**for Bishop Michael D.**  
**Pfeifer, OMI, January**  
**21, 2014.**

Photos by Alan P. Torre  
aptorre.com