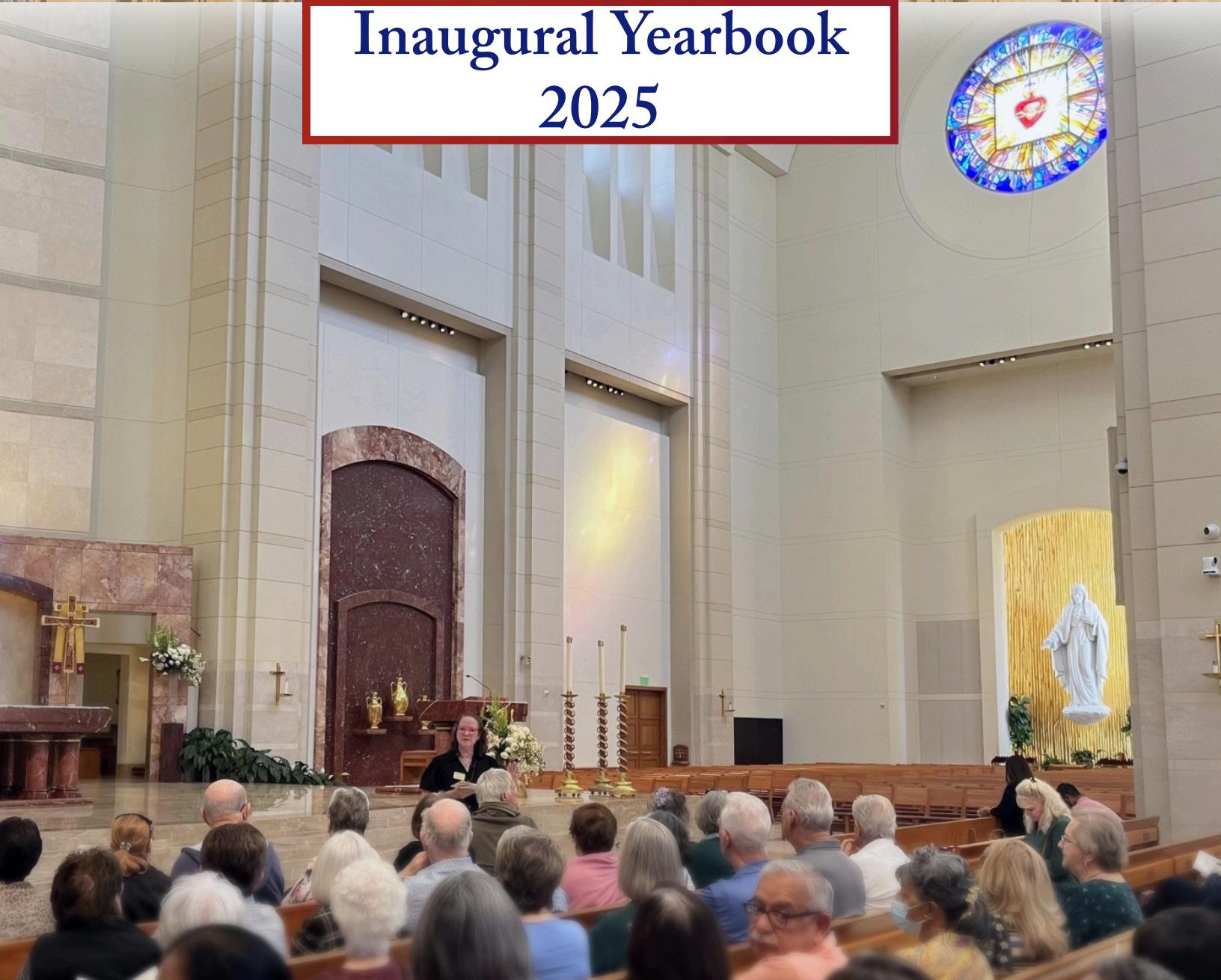




SAINTS UNIVERSITY

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNING FOR
FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN



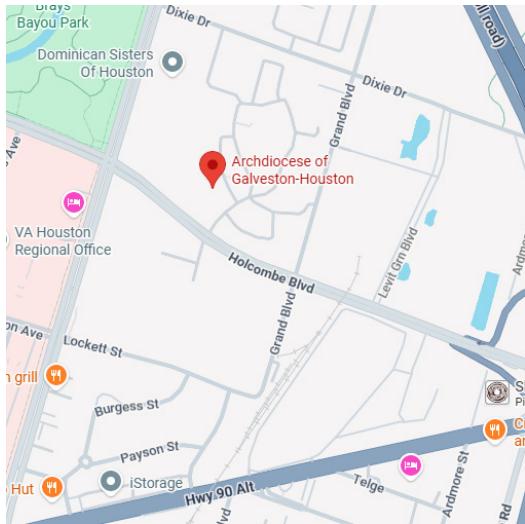
Inaugural Yearbook
2025



CONTENTS

01	The Office of Aging
02	Reflections from the Director Kris Kerlin
04	Letters from the Associate Directors
07	Advocacy Day
08	Service Projects and Continued Learning
09	Searvant Leadership Training
10	St. Joseph's Table
11	Day of Prayer
12	Installation of the New Archbishop Vasquez
13	Pope Francis
14	Pope Leo XIV
15	Northern Senior Resource Fair
16	Wedding Anniversary

17	Game Days/Fun Day
18	Catholic Social Teaching
20	Grandparents Day Celebration
21	End Of Life Preparation Event
23	West Side Senior Resource Fair
24	Jubilee Year Pilramages/Field Trips
27	Memorial Mass of Remembrance
28	Southwest Senior Senate Recognition
29	Dia de los Muertos Celebration
30	Central Senior Senate Recognition and Christmas Event
31	Spanish Community Recognition and Christmas Luncheon
32	Northern Senior Senate Recognition and Christmas Event
33	Notes and Reflections



THE OFFICE OF AGING MINISTRY

St. Dominic Center
2401 Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77021

Office Hours:
(M-F) 8:30 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.
Phone: (713) 741-8712
Fax: (713) 741-8775

MEET YOUR TEAM

At the Office of Aging

Director

Kris Kerlin, LPC-S
713-391-2678
kkerlin@archgh.org

Associate Director

Open Position

Associate Director

Gina Pasket
713-391-2671
gpasket@archgh.org

Administrative Assistant

Lily Marroquin
713-741-8712
lmarroquin@archgh.org

Join our community!

OFFICE OF AGING COMMUNITY



Text "aging" to 84576
or
Scan the QR Code

COMUNIDAD DE ADULTOS MAYORES



Envía un mensaje de
texto con la palabra
"Sabio"
a (202) 765-3441 o
Escanear código QR

Reflections from the Director

Kris Kerlin

What a Jubilee year 2025 has been! We have a new Pope, new Archbishop and here in our own Office of Aging Ministry, a new Secretariat Director, Franchelle Lee and our new beloved administrative assistant, Lily. Also new for the Office of Aging Ministry, we celebrated the Jubilee with two pilgrimages to St. Mary's Basilica and the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

This year we launched SAINTS University, a community of learning based on faith, fellowship, and fun. In addition to our Northern, Central, and Southwest senates, we added a Spanish community for Spanish-speaking seniors in the archdiocese. Each of the four communities held meetings for seniors to learn about a variety of topics including spiritual direction, self-care and a healthy lifestyle, social security and preparing for our journey to heaven. We had fun together at fun day and game days and we ended the year with recognition events and Christmas celebrations.



We came together in March for a shared Day of Prayer with all four communities to celebrate the World Day of Prayer. We ended the year together discerning the needs and interests of each community to plan the calendar for 2026 accordingly.

Reflections from the Director

Kris Kerlin

You all have inspired a lot of firsts this year at the Office of Aging Ministry – Two resource fairs in the north and west, a listening session and caregiver symposium with the Alzheimer’s Association, a celebration of grandparents for Grandparents Day and a letter to every parish in the Archdiocese encouraging the recognition and celebration of grandparents and elders. We made a trip to the Funeral Museum. Together we explored Conscious Eldering with an online webinar and prepared ourselves for Lent and Advent with weekly online reflections.



We updated the Senate By-Laws for the first time in nine years. You will all be reviewing them and voting on them at the beginning of the year. We completed our first edition of the Ministering to Seniors Guide, a foundational document that has been part of our 51-year history and is a treasure of wisdom about starting a senior ministry, planning meaningful programs and care for members. The guide will be distributed to each senior ministry president and the pastors at each parish over the coming months.



We are excited about 2026! Each community has a full calendar of events that is here in the Sage. Please review it and put the events on your calendar and bring a friend. Join us for our Conscious Living, Conscious Aging book study beginning January 21 or come and find out what's new with Social Security this January at one of our senate meetings.

YOU make the events special! Your presence is truly what makes this ministry meaningful. We look forward to seeing you soon. Happy New Year!

A Letter by the Associate Director Gina Pasket

In 2025 our gatherings were filled with education and awareness, which created an amazing year for our seniors in each community. The year was so engaging and helped our older adults connect with their needs. It helped create space for their well-being and a space where they could learn, laugh, share, and connect with each other. We focus on topics that truly matter to seniors from health discussions to fun social gatherings.

In our Central Senate the gatherings focused on Health and Wellness, enhancing self-care and healthy lifestyles for our aging adults. Nutrition and exercising, spiritual growth, helpful tips for living with a purpose and taking part in social justice. Their annual game day of BINGO was both enjoyable and fun.

In our Northern Senate education, living healthier, tips on being a Catholic grandparent, navigating through social security, and spiritual insight of cleansing and living better. We honored wedding anniversaries and remembered those who passed away with a mass of remembrance. A big highlight was when a chef came and taught us how to prepare healthy foods and snacks.

Our Southwest Senate hosted the annual 2025 Day of Prayer which begin with a beautiful Mass, and an amazing presentation on the theme "Jesus Christ, Our Living Hope" that help all reflect to deepen their spiritual being. Topics that helped them with dealing with Grief and Loss, education, and a meeting with a spin of a little spice with team competition playing trivia and educational infomercial combined. It was a crowd-pleaser; a lot of people attended this fun-filled day, they asked for more in the future.



All the senates closed the year with their annual Recognition Celebration, with a presentation which helped connect everyone into the theme: "God Our Help in Ages Past, Our Hope for Years to Come". They are all gearing up for an even better 2026. The calendars are out, and we hope that you join us for even more excitement to come in 2026 in all our communities.

God's Blessings and Happy New Year!

A Letter by the Associate Director

Olga Najar

Happy New Year 2026! Peace be with you!

As we begin the year 2026, we set out on a new journey filled with dreams, hopes, projects, and plans. At the same time, we carry in our hearts a gentle nostalgia for the year now passed: goals not fully reached, projects left unfinished, and, in a special way, the grateful remembrance of our loved ones who, during 2025, went ahead of us to the Father's house.

The year 2025 was a particularly meaningful time for the Church, marked by the Jubilee Year under the motto *Spes non confundit*—hope does not disappoint. It was a year of grace that invited us to spiritual renewal, to deepen mercy and forgiveness, and to strengthen our commitment to service, justice, and the building of a more humane and compassionate world, illuminated by the light of Christ.

In this spirit of hope, we look back with gratitude on the fruits of our ministry serving Hispanic older-adult communities. Throughout the year, formation, leadership development, and community presence were central to our mission. In March, our team participated for the first time as a Hispanic community in SAINTS University, and we were also represented at the Day of Prayer celebrated at St. Cyril of Alexandria Church. During Lent, we offered a series of virtual reflections entitled *The Journey of Hope*, rooted in the Word of God and enriched by spiritual conversation.

Listening attentively to the voices of the community remained a priority. In May, I had the joy of creating our first Spanish Leadership Committee, an important step in strengthening shared leadership and participation. Through a community survey on topics of greatest interest, we were able to thoughtfully shape and develop the 2026 Activities Calendar.

The fall months brought moments of grace and meaningful encounters. October proved to be especially fruitful, while November opened with a pilgrimage to the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston. There, we shared a guided tour and celebrated Holy Mass in commemoration of the Jubilee Year. We also participated in the national presentation of the telenovela *Memories of My Grandfather*, organized by the Alzheimer's Association in the East End area. The month concluded with virtual Advent reflections focused on migration and hospitality toward those most in need.

As we look toward 2026, the Holy Father calls us to live our faith with boldness and to walk as true pilgrims of hope—a firm hope that does not disappoint and that urges us forward in trust that God always works for our good. Forgiveness and reconciliation invite us to leave behind offenses and misunderstandings, embracing a peace that transforms our personal, family, and community lives. Service and justice call us to walk alongside the most vulnerable, to care for our common home and to build a more compassionate and united world.

At the beginning of this new year, let us ask the Lord for wisdom and prudence to discern His will, and for the grace to share His peace and joy with our families and communities. With grateful hearts, we thank God for the blessings, challenges, and trials of the year now ended, confident that all have contributed to our growth. May we welcome 2026 with renewed hope and a deep commitment to our older adults so that they may always be seen, valued, and heard. In this way, we will continue building together a better world, for the greater glory of God.

Un artículo de la Directora Asociada

Olga Najar

¡Feliz Año Nuevo 2026! ¡Que la paz esté con ustedes!

Al comenzar el año 2026, emprendemos un nuevo camino lleno de sueños, esperanzas, proyectos y planes. Al mismo tiempo, llevamos en nuestros corazones una dulce nostalgia por el año que acaba de terminar: metas no alcanzadas por completo, proyectos inconclusos y, de manera especial, el recuerdo agradecido de nuestros seres queridos que, durante 2025, nos precedieron a la casa del Padre. El año 2025 fue un tiempo particularmente significativo para la Iglesia, marcado por el Año Jubilar bajo el lema *Spes non confundit* —la esperanza no defrauda—. Fue un año de gracia que nos invitó a la renovación espiritual, a profundizar en la misericordia y el perdón, y a fortalecer nuestro compromiso con el servicio, la justicia y la construcción de un mundo más humano y compasivo, iluminado por la luz de Cristo.

Con este espíritu de esperanza, recordamos con gratitud los frutos de nuestro ministerio al servicio de las comunidades hispanas de adultos mayores. A lo largo del año, la formación, el desarrollo del liderazgo y la presencia en la comunidad fueron fundamentales para nuestra misión. En marzo, nuestro equipo participó por primera vez como comunidad hispana en la Universidad de los Santos, y también estuvimos representados en la Jornada de Oración celebrada en la Iglesia de San Cirilo de Alejandría. Durante la Cuaresma, ofrecimos una serie de reflexiones virtuales tituladas *El Camino de la Esperanza*, basadas en la Palabra de Dios y enriquecidas por la conversación espiritual.

Escuchar atentamente las voces de la comunidad siguió siendo una prioridad. En mayo, tuve la alegría de crear nuestro primer Comité de Liderazgo Hispano, un paso importante para fortalecer el liderazgo compartido y la participación. A través de una encuesta comunitaria sobre los temas de mayor interés, pudimos diseñar y desarrollar cuidadosamente el Calendario de Actividades 2026. Los meses de otoño trajeron momentos de gracia y encuentros significativos. Octubre resultó ser especialmente fructífero, participamos en la presentación nacional de la telenovela *Memorias de mi Abuelo*, organizada por la Asociación de Alzheimer en el área de East End. El mes concluyó con reflexiones virtuales de Adviento centradas en la migración y la hospitalidad hacia los más necesitados. Al mirar hacia 2026, el Santo Padre nos llama a vivir nuestra fe con valentía y a caminar como verdaderos peregrinos de la esperanza: una esperanza firme que no defrauda y que nos impulsa a seguir adelante con la confianza de que Dios siempre obra para nuestro bien. El perdón y la reconciliación nos invitan a dejar atrás las ofensas y los malentendidos, abrazando una paz que transforma nuestras vidas personales, familiares y comunitarias. El servicio y la justicia nos llaman a caminar junto a los más vulnerables, a cuidar nuestra casa común y a construir un mundo más compasivo y unido.

Al comienzo de este nuevo año, pidamos al Señor sabiduría y prudencia para discernir su voluntad, y la gracia para compartir su paz y alegría con nuestras familias y comunidades. Con corazones agradecidos, damos gracias a Dios por las bendiciones, los desafíos y las pruebas del año que termina, confiados en que todo ha contribuido a nuestro crecimiento. Que acojamos el 2026 con renovada esperanza y un profundo compromiso con nuestros adultos mayores, para que

siempre se sientan vistos, valorados y escuchados. De esta manera, seguiremos construyendo juntos un mundo mejor, para mayor gloria de Dios.

Escrito por Olga Najar

Advocacy Day

April 2nd

On April 2, 2,500 Catholics from all over Texas traveled to Austin for Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. Advocacy day is a bi-annual celebration of faith in action and an opportunity for students, priests, sisters and lay people from the 16 Catholic dioceses of Texas to come together and learn about citizenship, current legislation and to give voice to Catholic beliefs and values in public life. This year, Sr. Maureen O'Connell, Secretariat for Social Concerns and Kris Kerlin, Director of the Office of Aging Ministry attended to represent the concerns of those we serve.



Service Projects and Continued Learning



Working in ministry enables us to give to others through service projects, outreach and to engage in ongoing formation ourselves. This year we were gifted a large number of donated items from Prince of Peace during Lent that we gave to our seniors throughout the year. We've made several visits to our seniors who live at St. Dominic Village and we distributed warm fuzzy socks to the seniors in the nursing home for Thanksgiving.



We also attend numerous conferences and fairs to make people aware of our ministry, enhance our relationships with community partners and deepen our knowledge of topics related to seniors.



Servant Leadership Training

February 17th



When we began our ministry to seniors who speak Spanish, they told us that they needed assistance with forming leaders; many people were hesitant to step into leadership roles. With the knowledge and expertise of our colleague, Adrian Herrera in the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, who authored a book on Servant Leadership, we were able to provide training to our spanish speaking seniors. From that training, our Spanish Leadership team emerged.



St. Joseph Table

March 19th

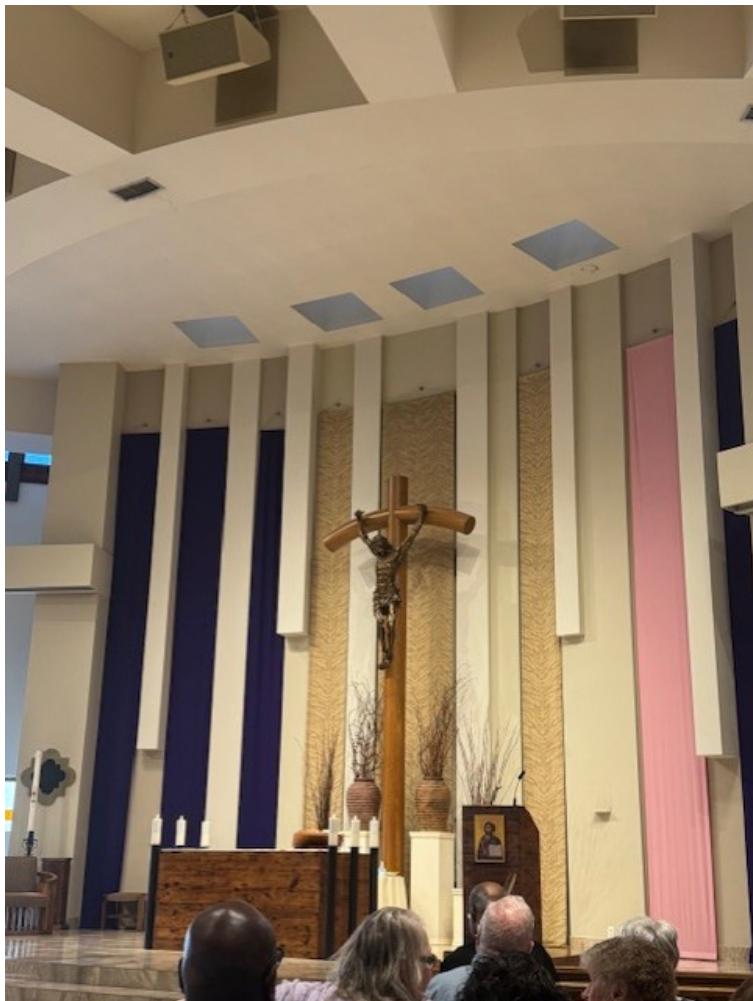


St. Joseph's Altar is a celebration of the Feast Day of St. Joseph on March 19th, patron saint of the poor, and many other saints. Since not all parishes create an altar to celebrate the feast day, the Office of Aging Ministry was welcomed by Prince of Peace parish to give an open invitation to anyone in the Archdiocese who wanted to attend. An altar of breads, produce and representations of the saints was created and people in the parish dressed as saints. The blessing of the Altar and a rosary happened on the evening of Friday, March 21. The celebration began with a Mass, followed by feeding of the saints, a meal shared by all who were acting as saints. Lunch was served for anyone who attended. Donations were used to support Mercy Ministries, a church ministry that serves the poor and those in need, as well as the Mission of Yahweh, serving homeless women and children since 1961, and many more people.

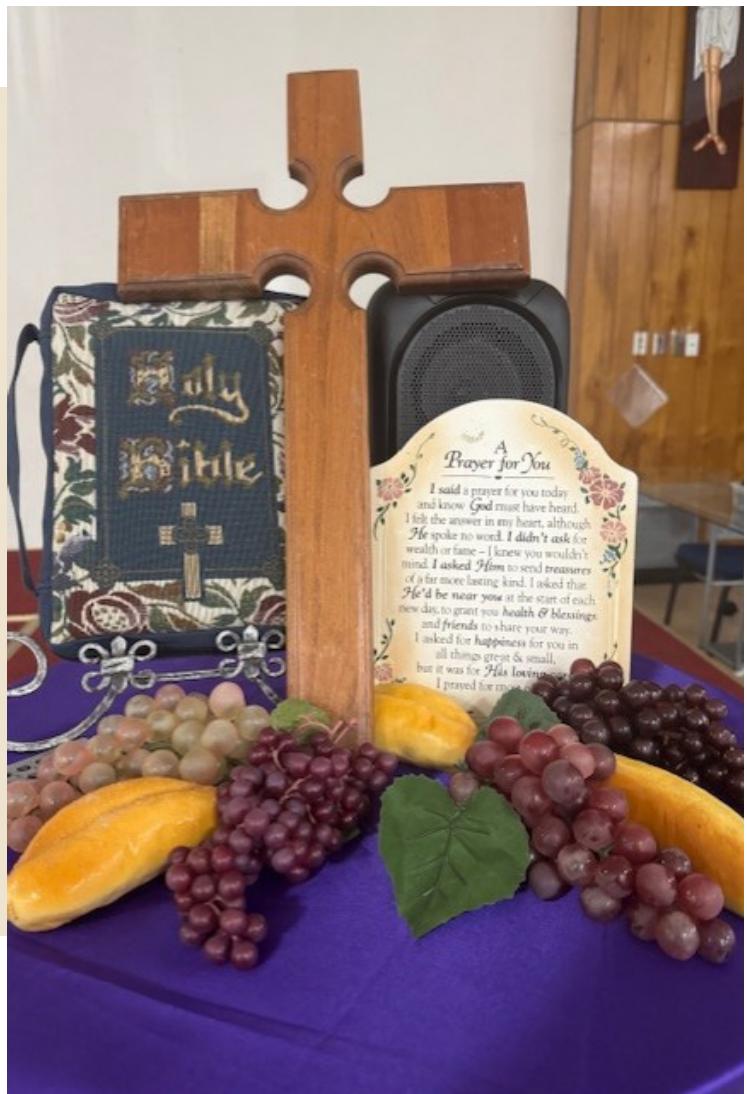


Day of Prayer

March 24th



Our annual Day of Prayer was celebrated on March 24. This day, all of the communities that offer services through the Office of Aging Ministry, our northern, central and southwest communities and our newly formed Spanish community came together to pray together and celebrate the love of God who is truly our Living Hope. This year the Day of Prayer included a special commissioning ceremony for the newly elected officers and leaders of our ministries.



Installation of the new Archbishop Vasquez

March 25th



Archbishop Joe S. Vasquez who had been the Archbishop of the Diocese of Austin since 2010, returned to the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston to be installed as Archbishop on March 25, 2025. Our team at the Office of Aging Ministry were honored to attend his mass of installation. Archbishop Vasquez was first in the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston as the auxiliary bishop from January 2002 until March 2010.

Currently, he serves as a consultant to the United States Conference of Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities and is lead bishop Region X for the Fifth National Encounter for Hispanic/Latino ministry (V Encuentro)

Our Office of Aging Ministry team was blessed to attend mass at St. Thomas Seminary on December 19 where Archbishop Vasquez presided and we shared some time and a photo at the Chancery Christmas party.

Prayers and Blessings for you Archbishop Vasquez in 2026!



Pope Francis

April 21st

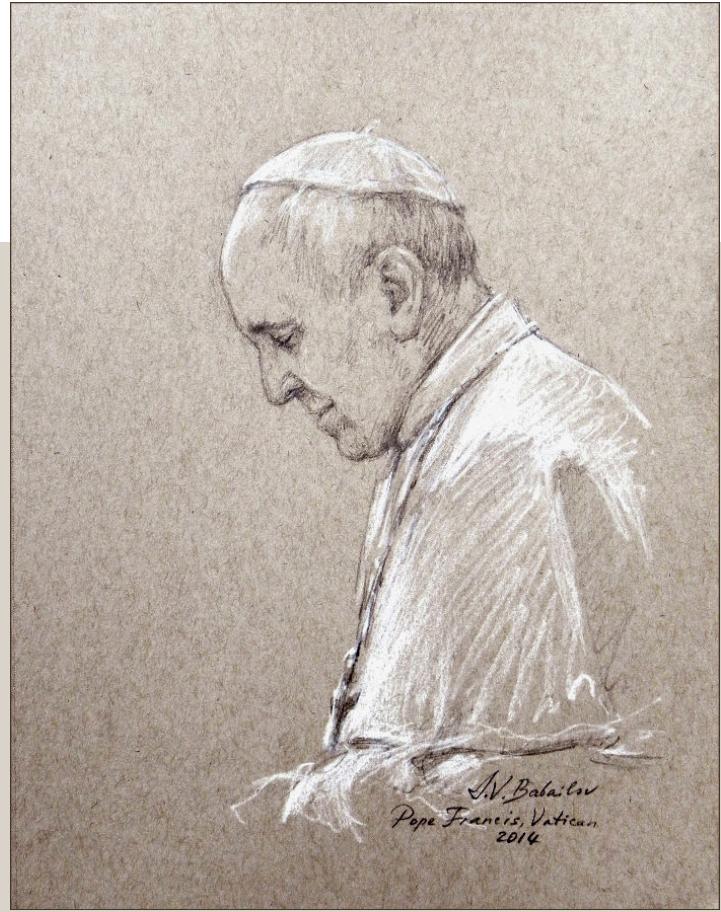


Our beloved Pope Francis went home to God on April 21, 2025 after 88 years of life here on earth.

Pope Francis was a true friend of the elderly and in 2021 he established the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly that is celebrated annually in July with the saints, St. Anne and St. Joachim, grandparents of Jesus.

Pope Francis has written many beautiful homilies and prayers related to seniors.

““I am with you always” (Mt 28:20): this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. . . May every grandfather, every grandmother, every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an angel!” Pope Francis 2021 message on World Grandparents and Elderly Day.



"Pope Francis in Prayer - Portrait sketch, by Igor Babailov, Vatican"



AI Generated Photograph

Pope Leo XIV

May 8th

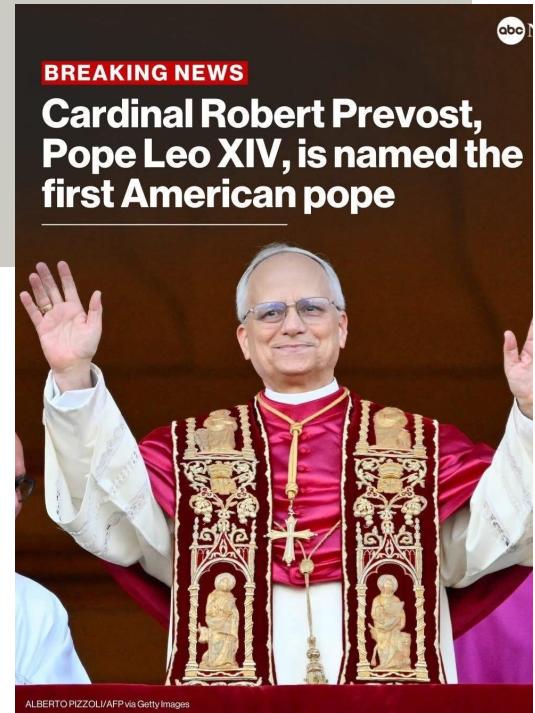


Leo PP. XIV

As the chosen successor to Pope Francis, Pope Leo XIV was named the first American Pope on May 8, 2025. Of both American and Peruvian citizenship, he has been a missionary to the poor of Latin America, a priest, then bishop, then cardinal and now a Pope with an ongoing mission to the marginalized.

For the 5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, Pope Leo XIV said, "Looking at the elderly in the spirit of this Jubilee, we are called to help them experience liberation, especially from loneliness and abandonment. . . . Especially as we grow older, let us press forward with confidence in the Lord."

In his first address to the world, he began: "Peace be with you! Dearest brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the risen Christ, the good shepherd who gave His life for the flock of God. I too would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families to people, wherever they are; to the peoples, and all the whole earth: Peace be with you."



ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP via Getty Images

Northern Senior Resource Fair

April 12th



The Office of Aging Ministry held a Senior Resource Fair for people over age 50 and the people who love them on the north side of Houston in April. Providing essential resources is important given that there are half a million people over fifty in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and our mission is to identify and meet the needs of seniors. Over 50 exhibitors from the community, our Catholic family and our parishes covering services related to health, aging in place and senior living, end-of-life and funeral planning, caregiving, grandparents, veterans, retreats, and education were present. Resources were available in both English and Spanish. We also had 12 brief presentations by exhibitors given throughout the day so participants could more fully understand the resources offered.

Wedding Anniversary

May 12th



Every year the Northern Senate celebrates the wedding anniversaries of couples who have been married 50 years, 55 years and 60+ years with mass and a luncheon. This year 64 people attended, representing 8 parishes and 28 couples were honored.

This year couples were encouraged to complete a marriage keepsake about their life together and we had fun with marriage trivia. Do you know what percentage of married couples in the U.S. have been married 50 years or more?



"A marriage that lasts fifty, fifty-five, or even sixty years is not just a love story — it's a living testimony of God's faithfulness, two hearts choosing each other daily, and a covenant that time can only deepen." (AI original quote)

Central Game Day

June 2nd



You don't stop having fun when you grow old!

Southwest Game Day

July 23rd



You grow old when you stop having fun!

Northern Fun Day

July 31st



Joy thrives in community! This summer, 472 seniors came together to experience faith, fellowship and fun all over the Houston area.



From the SECRETARIAT FOR SOCIAL CONCERN

In September, Sr. Maureen O'Connell, retired Secretariat Director of Social Concerns shared her wisdom about Catholic Social Justice teaching and how it applies to current events with the Central Senate.

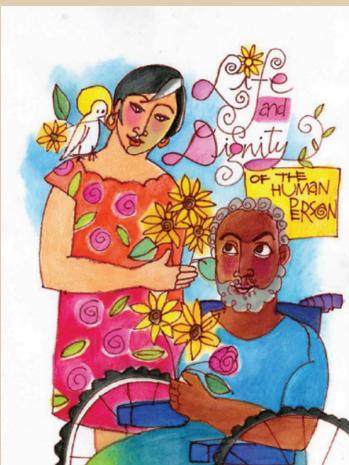


From the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of [papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents](#). The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

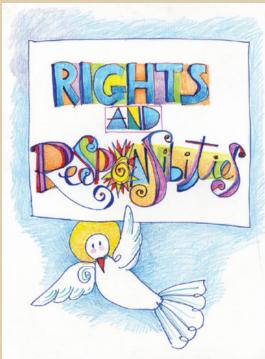
The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from [abortion](#) and [euthanasia](#). The value of human life is being threatened by [cloning](#), [embryonic stem cell research](#), and the use of the [death penalty](#). The intentional targeting of civilians in [war](#) or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and [resolve them by peaceful means](#). We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the [life and dignity](#) of the human person.



Call to Family, Community, and Participation

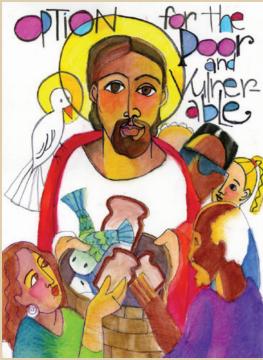
The person is not only sacred but also social. [How we organize our society](#) -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. [Marriage and the family](#) are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to [participate in society](#), seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.





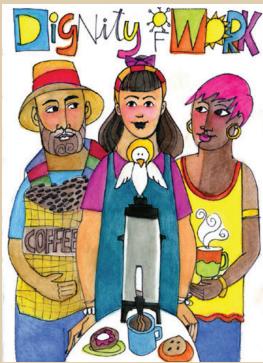
Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental [right to life](#) and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.



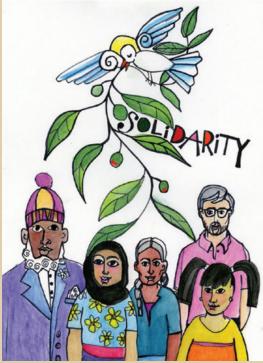
Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.



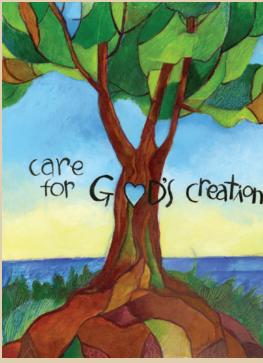
The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The [economy must serve people](#), not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.



Solidarity

We are [one human family](#) whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has [global dimensions](#) in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice.¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.



Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our [stewardship of creation](#). Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

Grandparents Day Celebration



Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV said, in his message for the Fifth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2025, “How often our grandparents have been for us examples of faith and devotion, civic virtue and social commitment, memory and perseverance amid trials! The precious legacy that they have handed down to us with hope and love will always be a source of gratitude and a summons to perseverance.”

In the Office of Aging Ministry of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, we celebrate grandparents and the elderly all year long to ensure that ALL older adults, are seen and heard, valued and loved.

We love you and we celebrate you!

Spanish End of Life Preparation Event



For the first time in the 51 year history of the Office of Aging Ministry, we held an end of life preparation seminar in Spanish for our Spanish speaking seniors and their loved ones.

Led by Olga Najar, Associate Director in the Office of Aging Ministry, and the Spanish leadership team, with the help of over 20 ministry angels, the event was held at St. Bartholomew's Church on Saturday, September 27th.

Four exceptional presenters were featured:

Fr. Ricardo Arriola - Getting Your Spiritual House in Order

Enrique Contreras - Your Spiritual Journey Home

Kenneth A. Krohn - Getting Your Legal House in Order

Stephanie Salcedo - Your Final Gift: Pre-planning Your Funeral

It was a great success! Approximately 200 people attended the event, feedback was very positive and we already have two parishes that want to have the seminar done in their parish in 2026.



Fr. Ricardo Arriola



Enrique Contreras

Evento de Preparación para el Fin de la Vida



Por primera vez en los 51 años de historia de la Oficina de Adultos Mayores, realizamos un seminario sobre preparativos para el final de la vida en español para nuestros adultos mayores hispanohablantes y sus seres queridos.

Dirigido por Olga Najar, Directora Asociada de la Oficina de Adultos Mayores, y el equipo de liderazgo en español, con la ayuda de más de 20 ángeles del ministerio, el evento se llevó a cabo en la Iglesia de San Bartolomé el sábado 27 de septiembre.

Contó con la participación de cuatro presentadores excepcionales:

Fr. Ricardo Arriola - Poniendo en orden tu casa espiritual

Enrique Contreras - Tu viaje espiritual de regreso a casa

Kenneth A. Krohn - Poniendo en orden tu casa legal

Stephanie Salcedo - Tu regalo final: Planificando tu funeral con anticipación

¡Fue un gran éxito! Aproximadamente 200 personas asistieron al evento, los comentarios fueron muy positivos y ya tenemos dos parroquias que quieren realizar el seminario en la parroquia en 2026.



Fr. Ricardo Arriola



Enrique Contreras

West Side Senior Resource Fair



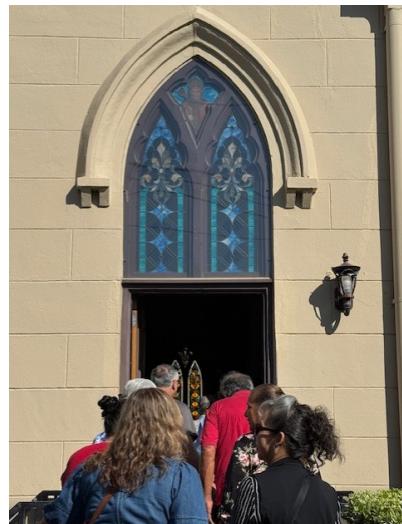
Despite a very wet and rainy day, 100 seniors, exhibitors, presenters and volunteers gathered to bring needed resources in the areas of health, senior living, social security benefits and many other areas relevant to seniors in our community. Hosted at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church, the event was the first event of this kind on the west side of town.

A special thank you to Lisa Gilkeson, Manager of Outreach at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church who worked many hours and paved the way for this event to happen.

Jubilee year Pilgrimages

October 8th

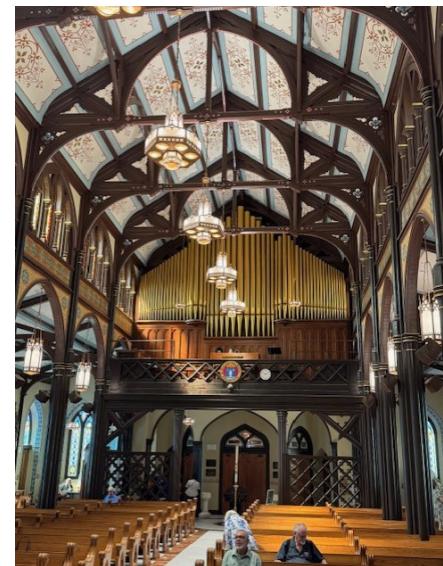
St. Mary's Basilica Galveston



Thirty-five of us took a bus to the mother Catholic church of Texas, St. Mary's Basilica in Galveston, founded in 1842. Others met us at the Basilica to learn about the history of the church, to pray the rosary and attend mass. It was a beautiful spiritual experience. We concluded the pilgrimage with lunch before returning to Houston.

"The trip to St. Mary church was a truly inspiring and informative trip. The welcoming we received and the people we met there are forever memories. Thank you. And Happy New Year."

Irma from the Gathering Group of St. Charles Borromeo Church



Jubilee year Pilgrimages

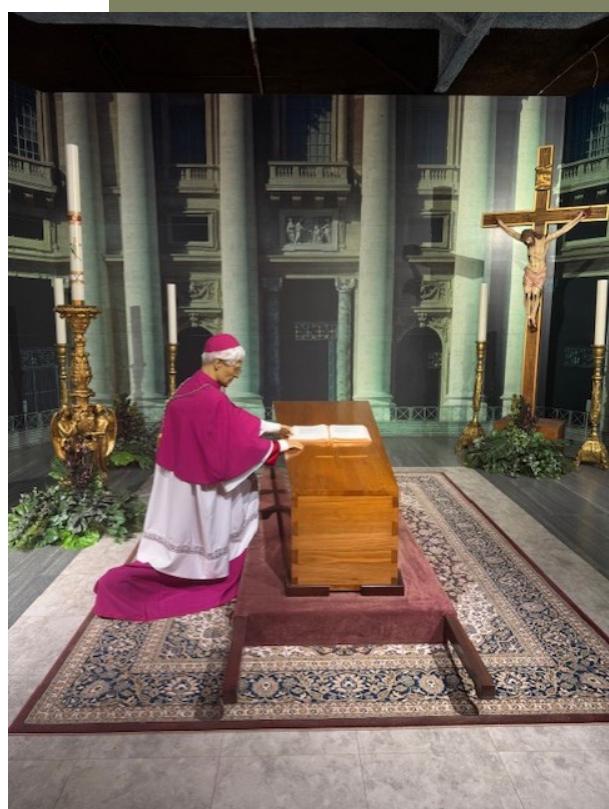
November 5th

Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart



Over 50 seniors gathered for a tour of the Co-Cathedral and Mass. As an added joy, we were able to hear a high school choir performing in the Co-Cathedral.

Trip to the National Funeral Museum



Sponsored by Dignity Funeral Homes, twenty of us took a bus to the National Funeral Museum. Others met us at the Funeral Museum for a very interesting tour, lunch and presentation given by Dignity. Covering the burials and funerals of celebrities, popes, presidents and people of every nation from Egypt to America, it was very interesting and a testimony to our shared humanity and the universal experience of death. It was also a reminder, as the Funeral Museum tagline says, Any Day Above Ground Is A Good Day!

Memorial Mass of Remembrance

On November 10, 2025, members of the Northern Senate came together for a Mass of Remembrance and luncheon to honor members of senior groups in the north who had died during the year.

Fourteen senior groups remembered 51 of their brothers and sisters in Christ who went home to the Lord in the previous year.

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Phil 1:3



Southwest Senior Senate Recognition

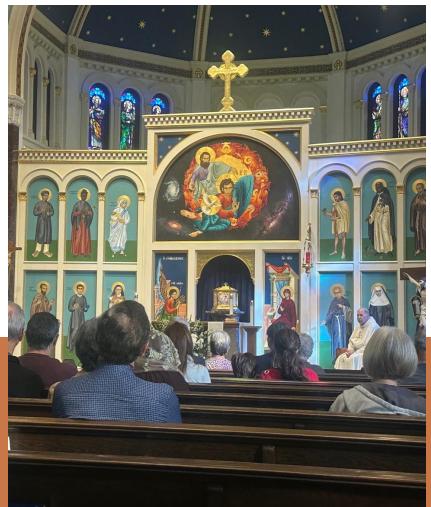


We had a great time in our last two meetings this year! In September, we all enjoyed playing a game of trivia and eating a delicious “pot luck” lunch. In November, we had our annual Recognition event with 97 participants recognizing seniors from each of our seven participating parishes (Holy Family in Missouri City, St. Cyril of Alexandria, St. Justin Martyr, St. Laurence, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Catherine of Sienna, and St. Angela Merici) for their outstanding service to their parish, fellow seniors, and their community. Everyone was uplifted by our entertainment which was the Gospel Choir from Holy Family in Missouri City. We look forward to our January meeting with a speaker on Social Security and the Day of Prayer in March!

By Gwen Reinke



Dia de los Muertos Celebration



Por primera vez, la Oficina de Adultos Mayores de la Comunidad Hispana celebró el Día de los Muertos, una festividad cercana al corazón de muchos latinoamericanos. Creamos un altar en la iglesia All Saints en the Heights para celebrar a nuestros seres queridos que han fallecido y que permanecen con nosotros en el corazón y la mente.



For the first time, the Office of Aging Ministry Spanish Community, celebrated Dia De Los Muertos, a celebration close to the heart of many from Latin America. We created an altar at All Saints Church in the Heights to celebrate our loved ones who have passed away and remain with us in heart and mind.

Central Recognition and Christmas Event



The Central Senate gathered for their annual Recognition and Christmas celebration held at the Hobby Doubletree Hotel on December 3, 2025.

Eleven people were honored for their extraordinary and exemplary service to individuals in their parish and community.

Led by the President for the Central Senate, Barbara Murray, we enjoyed carols by Anthony Boggess-Glover and prayer, blessing and inspiration from Fr. Michael Thompson, pastor of St. Francis Xavier church. It was a joy and a blessing for all present!



Spanish Leadership Team Luncheon and Recognition

December 5th



Por primera vez, nuestro equipo de líderes se reunió para un convivio navideño y reconocer al Equipo de Liderazgo Hispano y a otros que han sido especialmente solidarios con este ministerio.

Este equipo ha aportado entusiasmo y pasión a este ministerio.

Muchas Gracias,
**Juan Gomez, Erika Gonzalez, Benito Meza,
Miguel Pinon, Cony Travera
Linda Williams Hall and
Cristina De La Rosa**

For the first time, our Spanish community met for a Christmas luncheon and recognition of the Spanish Leadership Team and others who have been especially supportive of this ministry.

This team has brought enthusiasm and passion to this ministry.

Thank you,
**Juan Gomez, Erika Gonzalez, Benito Meza,
Miguel Pinon, Cony Travera
Linda Williams Hall and Cristina De La Rosa**

Northern Recognition and Christmas Event

The Northern Senate gathered for their annual Recognition and Christmas celebration held at Prince of Peace Catholic Community on December 16, 2025.

Thirteen people were honored for their extraordinary and exemplary service to individuals in their parish and community.

Fr. John Bullock of the LC Legionaries of Christ inspired us with his reflections on the theme, "God our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come!" Santa and the DJ made the day merry and festive.



Messages and Reflections

