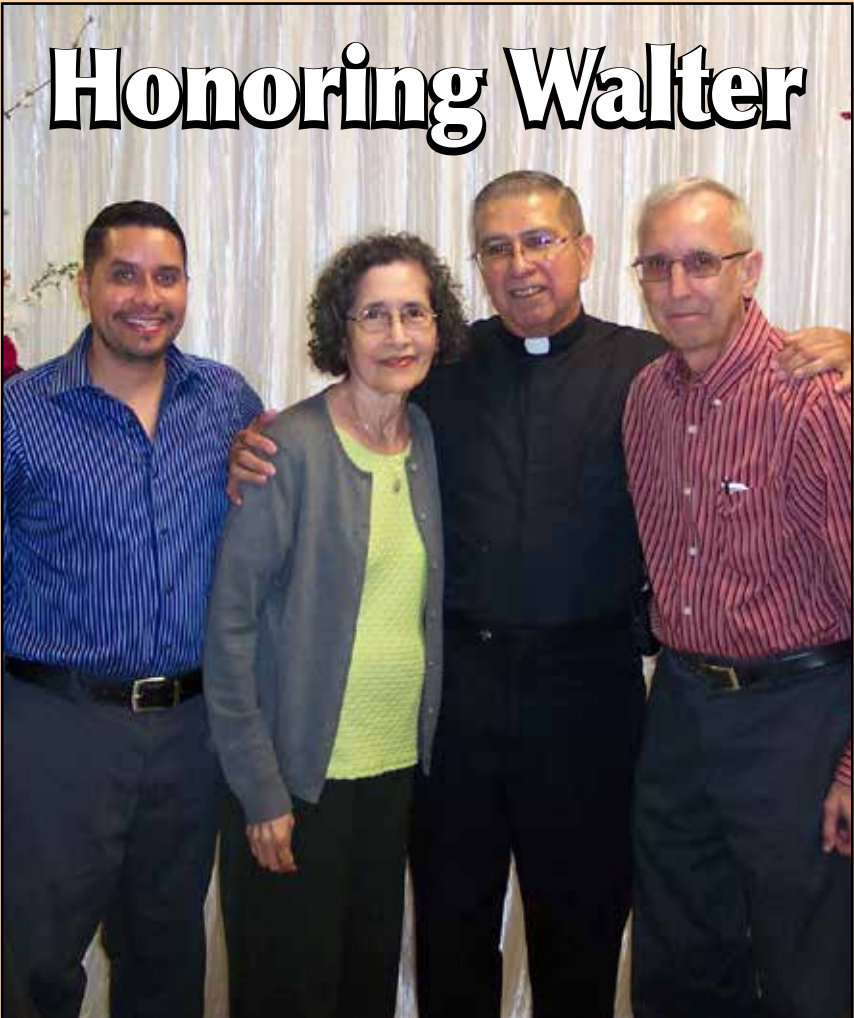


# Honoring Walter



*Stephen (son), Tina, Father Phil, and Walter.*

## A Lifetime of Service

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# The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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## The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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3014 Oregon Avenue  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63118-1412  
Phone: 888.484.9945  
[www.MSF-America.org](http://www.MSF-America.org)

Publisher: Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F.  
Editor: Maurice Prater  
Designer: Bill Herberholt,  
Graphic Masters  
Printer: Breese Printing & Publishing  
Front Cover: Lukaszek Family with  
Father Phil.  
Back Cover: Grandchildren from the  
Baldy Family.

# Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

We are in summertime when our schedules change from the ending of the school year to looking forward to vacation!

However, we still find ourselves living in difficult and challenging economic times, as well as the unpredictability of the coronavirus. Our whole world has been affected, and we wonder what kind of normalcy we will experience.

Any recovery is day to day. Sheltering at home has offered us more time to spend with our families and the opportunities to pray together and reflect on the gifts God has bestowed upon us.

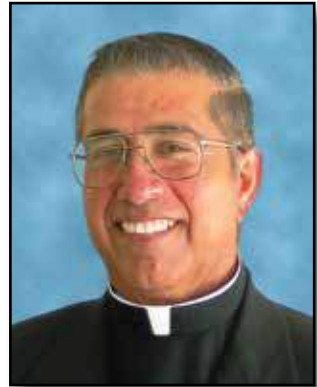
Remember, God promised to be with us always and that His Spirit in us makes Him present to others by our words and actions. This is a time to grow in our faith and trust in God.

**In this Year of Our Lord 2022**, please spend some time every day, perhaps at the beginning of each day, reading Sacred Scripture. Allow God's word to dwell within you, and you will find your life filled with greater grace and true peace. Thank you for everything, and God bless you and your Family!

Sincerely in the Holy Family, I am

*Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.*

Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.  
Provincial Superior



*Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F.*

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## A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

# Honoring Walter

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by Paul Binz

Walter Lukaszek, the Victim Assistance and Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Brownsville for almost 20 years, has retired. His lifelong career of

Program, which includes screening, background checks, and mandatory training for diocesan employees and associates aimed at reducing the risk of sexual abuse of children.

Every parish, school, and ministry in the diocese employs the program, which has been implemented and maintained under his guidance.

During his last full week on the job, Lukaszek garnered praise from Bishop Daniel E. Flores:

“I am just so very grateful for Walter Lukaszek’s long and generous service to the people of the Church in the Valley,” Bishop Flores said. “Always a gentle listener who helped victims of sexual abuse tell their story; always willing to help and to promote justice and healing. But also a tireless worker to make our churches and schools safe places for young people through



Diocesan recognition for Walter from the bishops.

defending children, spanning nearly two decades with the Diocese of Brownsville, following 27 years with Child Protective Services, officially came to a close on February 28, 2022.

Since 2002, Lukaszek has directed the diocese’s Safe Environment

training of volunteers and Church personnel.

“His trainings across the diocese raised awareness in our communities about the need always to be vigilant and proactive in the protection of young people,” Bishop Flores said. “Kind and patient, we will miss his presence, and hope he will enjoy a happy and relaxed retirement. He has built a strong foundation, and we all feel a great responsibility to continue to build upon it.”

Lukaszek expressed his gratitude for the solid support he has had for his work: “I’ve enjoyed serving the bishops, Bishop Peña, Bishop Flores, and Bishop Avilés now as the auxiliary. They’ve always been open to

listening to victims and responding to them in a pastoral way,” he said. “That’s the biggest thing that I have found very helpful. I haven’t had to push the concept that the Church

has to be open and transparent to these individuals coming forward.”

Lukaszek was the point man during one of the most painful times for the diocese, in February 2019, when it and other Texas dioceses made public their lists of priests and religious credibly accused of sexually abusing children. Most of

the local instances had occurred years earlier, but after the list was released on January 31, 2019, Lukaszek said he spent the next several days fielding phone calls from



Walter and Tina celebrating with Father Simon.



Walter, Tina, and son Stephen with Father Phil.

angry victims who wanted to talk about the abuse they had suffered.

“And the majority of those just wanted to be heard,” he said. “They didn’t want to do anything more than be acknowledged that they had lived through this process, hear an apology on behalf of the diocese, and then they moved on with their life.”



1972 wedding of  
Walter and beautiful Tina.

Lukaszek grew up in a devout Catholic family in Flint, Michigan, attending Mass every Sunday. He pursued a religious vocation as a youth, entering high school seminary at the age of 14 and continuing all the way to transitional deacon. However, while performing community service, he met a young woman from Donna, Texas, who

would become his future wife. He said he reached a decision that he would be a minister, but not a celibate one. He and his wife Tina celebrated 50 years of marriage in May 2022.

While Tina was his fiancée, though, she informed him that Michigan winters were too much to bear, and if they were to marry, they would have to live in the Rio Grande Valley. “My car and I both voted for that because it was just too cold up there,” Lukaszek said. That decision brought the couple here in 1970, and shortly afterward he found work with Child Protective Services (CPS), a governmental agency of the State of Texas.

Longevity in all things, including the workplace, has been important to the perennially calm, soft-spoken Lukaszek, who figured out ways for him and his coworkers to deal with the extremely high-stress jobs at CPS. “How does one survive in that? One of the things I learned is that you leave the job at 5:00 o’clock,” he said. “It’ll be there the next day. But you need to recharge your batteries.”

By the time he moved on to the diocese in 2001, Lukaszek was handling administration, training, and all the hiring for Region 8 of

CPS, which covered all of South Texas from Laredo to Corpus Christi and the Valley. “I came to the point that I really wanted to do something different,” he said. He retired from CPS, and two months later got wind of an opening in the diocese for director of Catholic Social Services. He landed the job and soon was overseeing immigration, counseling, casework services, financial aid, and benefits.

But he ran into a wall when he had to get involved with fundraising and privatization. “Working with people that may or may not want to help... I knew that was not my forte,” he recalled.

Lukaszek resigned from that post after almost two years, but by then he was already acting as victim assistance coordinator after the late Bishop Raymundo J. Peña asked him to do so.

The Charter for the Protection of Children, often called the Dallas Charter, came into being around this time. He almost immediately began working on a case involving abuse, he said, **“helping with the healing process.”**

As briefly mentioned earlier, Lukaszek faced perhaps his greatest challenge in early 2019, when the diocese compiled and then released

its list of clergy credibly accused of molesting children. “So there were 13 priests and one deacon that were named as credibly accused. That came out on January 31, 2019. **I spent the next four days listening to very angry people,”** he recalled.

“Some of them had not been in the Catholic Church for years; they probably were never going to come back,” Lukaszek said. “But for me, I could listen to what their pain was, and get them the help and healing they were looking for, so they could move on with their lives. Inside the Church, and outside the Church. Each one is an individual that has gone through something traumatic, mostly in their early teens... The general thing was just basically, ‘This happened to me. I didn’t like it. And I’m glad that the priest that did this to me has been held accountable.’”

Lukaszek expressed gratitude for his supervisor at the diocese, Father Alfonso Guevara, and all the diocesan staff who worked with him on victim assistance and the safe environment program. As for the future, Lukaszek said he will retain his connections with the diocese as his successor, Margie Garcia, takes over the responsibilities.

“I really don’t have any plans other than enjoying retirement. I’m 77!” he said. **+JM+**



## JOYS OF FAMILY LIFE

### Siblings

by Brother Knight Baldy Bluett

There are many joys of family life. One of those joys is siblings. The younger learn from the older. The older learns from the younger. There are developing and different stages for siblings as they go from toddlers to being retired.

I am not saying siblings get along with each other 100% of the time. Consider toddlers. The siblings learn from one another. Sometimes they share; sometimes they do not share. Sometimes they play well together; sometimes they bite or push. Overall, they get along well and communicate with each other.



Young Baldy and his brother.

toddler siblings get along well together, which is most of the time.

Now move ahead to when the siblings are in grade school or middle school. Biting one another has probably stopped. Things have changed for them since they were toddlers. They know and interact with more friends. Sally might say to one of her classmates, "That's my big brother. Isn't he great?" Sally might say to a classmate, "That's my brother. Isn't he stupid?" There is a lot of peer pressure. When the siblings get home, they still get along, and usually in a good way.



Sister love.

I'm sure parents prefer the times when

Now move ahead to high school for the siblings. There is interaction with even



more people. At this stage, the siblings may be best of friends, or maybe they don't even speak to each other.



Looking up to your brother.

Now move ahead to college with siblings at different colleges or trade schools. It's difficult for the siblings to

communicate more often, regardless of where each lives.

Now move ahead to retirement for the siblings. By this stage, the siblings should realize their siblings are friends and communicate with them. I know that is not always the case, but I urge siblings to keep in contact with one another. Siblings go through a lot of stages together.

Don't forget the people without a sibling! They have friends, or neighbors, or a spouse who become their "siblings." Treat them like siblings. No biting is a plus.

Siblings are one of the joys of family life. I have four siblings. The oldest is 73 and the youngest is about 60. We survived all of these stages. We all keep in contact with one another on a regular basis.



Baldy (right) and his siblings.

keep in touch with all they have going on in their different situations.

Now move ahead to one sibling getting married. Their worlds changed again. They may be at the point where they

I have six children. They are seemingly in constant communication with one another. They are all friends, and they do not bite each other anymore, at least I don't think so. God bless your families and your siblings. [M]



## WHERE ARE THE YOUNG PEOPLE?

# Mamas and Papas, Don't Let Your Children Grow up to be "Nones"

by © J. P. Richardson, 2022

If people lose faith in God—why? If fewer people go to church these days – why? When young people are asked what their religion is, many answer, “None” – so many that they’re being called “Nones.” Some Nones come from Catholic families. We can hope and pray that, with the grace of God, they will keep the Catholic Faith and find their way back home again to the Catholic Church.

Experts give various reasons to explain why some people refuse, or lose, the Catholic Faith. Some say that parents don't always set good examples of faithful Catholics for their children to follow. Some blame fathers, especially, because earthly fathers don't always faithfully represent Our Heavenly Father. Others say that some parents and teachers don't teach the Faith properly, which makes it easier for children and students to fall away from the Church,

even to become Nones.

Nones themselves give their own reasons. Some say God doesn't answer their prayers. Others say God wouldn't permit suffering, wars, murders, diseases,

poverty, and other evils. Others say that, even if God exists, there is no one true religion, no one true church – that all religions have truth and can lead



to God. Whatever works. Some say God abandoned or disappointed them. Others say the Church is full of hypocrites, that some priests, deacons, sisters, brothers, or bishops did or said things that betrayed their trust.

Is anything sacred? Do we have the idea of sin? We should try to understand what Original Sin is. We should admit that we ourselves are sinners – that we may disappoint God. We may fail to love and defend God and His Church in battles between right and wrong.

Is anything true? Faith is an act of mind and will. We believe something because we are convinced that it's true. If nothing is true, then everything is relative – we all think, feel, believe, and do as we please. If people lose faith, it could mean that they first lost interest in the truth.

Do we indulge too many distractions? Sex, drugs, alcohol, the internet, social



media, pornography, sports, music, videos, games – so many temptations pull us away from God. Our other activities may seem more important than faith. They might even become substitutes for religion. The world, the flesh, and the devil often seem more interesting, more exciting, than God and His Church. People say that faith doesn't pay. People want to play, not pray. Many choose to say, "I'm going my way" even it's not the high way – God's way."

Some of us can be too materialistic to take or make time for God and His Church. Being popular might matter most to some people. Showing off with fashionable clothes, or in a cool car, or in a showplace house in a prestigious

neighborhood might matter most to other people. Making money, or a career, might seem more important to us than loving God and neighbor and going to Heaven.

We might be too comfortable to think we need God. With science and technology, we might think the human race doesn't need God's Church any more. We should remember that there is more to existence than our temporary life in this world. God became one of us to pay for our sins, and He built His Church so that we could live with Him forever in Heaven. Can we truly live and die without God and His Church?

We must remember that we will die. God will judge each one of us. Purgatory exists. We must never take automatic Heaven for granted – telling ourselves that everyone goes there, so don't worry. As we pray in the Act of Contrition, "I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell."

In the Gospel of Saint Matthew (6:24), Jesus teaches: "No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." Are we going for God or for gold?

God makes us in His image. Sometimes, though, we might try to remake God in our image. We should go to church to learn what God wants, not to validate what we want. We shouldn't go to church to justify our selfish ways of comfort and pleasure that might

contradict God's way of self-sacrifice and service to neighbor. We ought to let God tell us what to do rather than telling God that what we're doing is right for us.

Many students are told that people are not created by God with immortal souls



G. K. Chesterton wrote: "A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it." God and His Catholic Church are alive.

In the Gospel of Saint John (14:6), Jesus says, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life." In the Gospel of Saint Luke (2:34), Simeon prophesizes to Mary that her Child Jesus will be a sign of contradiction. Pope Saint John Paul II taught that the Church should be – and he himself was – a sign of contradiction to the world.

in His own image. We are led to think of ourselves as random assortments of chemicals and physical forces of unknown origin. Merely millions of mutations of mysterious protoplasm. Mortal masses of molecules manufactured by millennia of merciless evolution. Exalted amoebas. Glorified apes. Can we believe, instead, that we are beloved, unique children of God, who creates each of us to love Him and each other?

Seeing is believing. Yet we believe some things without seeing them. Can you see electricity? Have you ever seen the wind? We believe that electricity and the wind exist because we observe their effects. In Hebrews 11:1, we read: "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen."

The human race has a herd instinct. Individuals tend to conform to the in-crowd – the politically correct – the woke – to stampede with the herd. Often, the herd follows pied pipers and false messiahs.

In the Gospel of Saint John (20:25-29), Doubting Thomas demands proof that Jesus is alive. Jesus shows him proof. Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe

because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that parents are the primary educators of their children (Paragraph 2223). Proverbs 22:6 teaches: “Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it.”

Catholic parents and teachers must teach their children and students the

Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that Your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because You have revealed them Who are eternal truth and wisdom, Who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this Faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

Ed and Patsy Bruce wrote an old song



Catholic Faith. Faith is a gift from God; we ought to accept it. Faith is a virtue. Virtues are habits. Habits must be practiced. It would be to our benefit to pray – every day – the *Act of Faith*:

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three divine Persons, Father,

– “Mamas, Don’t Let Your Babies Grow up to be Cowboys.” We could compose a new hymn: “Mamas and Papas, Don’t Let Your Children Grow up to be Nones.”

[Thank you to friends who contributed their thoughts to this article.] +jMj+

*Thank You & God Bless You to everyone who made a financial gift to date in 2022. We, the priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, extend our deep gratitude to all our benefactors. You are remembered in our prayers.*



## FISH & FRIENDSHIP

### Hooked on Helping

by Celia Barragan

*“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24*

As soon as Father Camillo Botello, M.S.F. gave his approval, Rick & Yvette Castañeda got busy making plans for the 2022 Lenten Fish Fry at Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Parish in New Braunfels, Texas. They had volunteered to spearhead the fish fry in 2020 after Tony & Louise Kneupper passed the torch of the church fundraiser.

There was a lot of planning to be done with only a couple days after Ash Wednesday before the first Friday fish fry. Food needed to be ordered and meeting with volunteers to prepare for the event were priorities. Church members were quick to respond to the opportunity to give back to the parish. There is so much that happens behind the scenes

to prepare for each fish fry. Considering Covid-19, all volunteers were required to wear masks and gloves. Tables were spread out in the church hall to provide plenty of social distancing.



To prepare for the fish fry lunch, volunteers showed up on Thursday to cut the fish, prepare coleslaw, tartar sauce, bread slices, and so

much more. Capirotada, a Lenten bread pudding, is always a favorite during the fish fry. Yvette’s capirostada special recipe is a delightful dessert. Some people take several servings of the bread pudding home to savor later. It’s been a sellout every Friday!

Come Friday, volunteers take tasks and staff their stations, whether it’s frying

the fish, shrimp, or hushpuppies. Let's not forget to mention the green beans and pinto beans that complement the entrée. Other volunteers are on the serving line, the drinks station, or the dessert table. You'll also see money and ticket counters, table cleaners, and dish washers.

The fish fry takes place from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. every Friday during Lent, with the exception of Good Friday. After



hand. In March 2020, when Rick & Yvette volunteered to take over the fundraiser, they never imagined what was to come.

The volunteers prepared two fish fries before covid-19 shut everything down. Two years later, the OLPH members were eager to pick up where they left off. If you had the chance to come by and enjoy a delicious plate of fish, golden brown shrimp, hush puppies, coleslaw, green beans, and pinto beans, you were met with plenty of happy, smiling faces.




lunch, members stay to help clean up, but it's not over yet! On Saturday morning, more volunteers show up to clean the hall and the kitchen. We even have a member who takes all the used aprons and washes them to get them ready for the following week.

It takes dedicated church members who show up week after week to make this possible. What a wonderful group of OLPH parishioners! Their dedication and desire to serve is immeasurable.

We thank Tony & Louise Kneupper and other church members who started the Lenten Fish Fry and continued it for over 10 years. You will still find them at the fish fry on Fridays lending a helping

Members have been overjoyed to have the opportunity to serve and help the church. The camaraderie which formed during the fish fry makes OLPH a stronger church community. Volunteers wish to thank all those who came to partake of the fish fry meals. You made our work worthwhile.

It was a success! Plates sold out on the last Friday fish fry, and we couldn't have done it without you. We enjoyed seeing your smiling faces, and we appreciate your support. I guess you can say that the Lenten Fish Fry volunteers at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church are "hooked" on helping. 

# Rebuilding Madagascar

*Deadly cyclones hit Madagascar in February 2022.*



*Providing food and clean water.*



# Rebuilding Madagascar



*Celebrating  
Mass...*



*... and  
repairing  
churches.*





## YOU ARE "SEW" BEAUTIFUL TO ME

# God-Given Talents are "Sew" Beautiful

by Celia Barragan

When asked what comes to mind when we see a quilt, one might say that it is a cover that keeps you warm. A quilt, however, is so much more than this. A quilt reflects the love and passion that the quilter has for life itself. The colors chosen are as diverse as the people's beliefs. The colors harmoniously unite, just as God wants us all to come together. The patterns on a quilt often tell a story.

Over 10 years ago, Diane Brown and Esther Torres, members of Holy Family Church in New Braunfels, Texas, met and found

a common love for sewing, a talent they both possess. Being given this gift, they decided to form a sewing ministry. Evy Zamot, Maria Veliz, and other church ladies joined Esther and Diane to create beautiful quilts, lap quilts, and other sewing projects.

Many parishioners of Holy Family

Church and the New Braunfels community have seen and purchased the amazing quilts during Christmas bazaars, rummage sales, and special occasions, such as the Lenten Fish Fry. Tables are set up to display the quilts, lap quilts, baby quilts, colorful aprons, and so many more items. They are truly works of art -- from the heart.

Members of the sewing ministry recall making hundreds of Christmas stockings for all of the Holy Family Church religion classes for public school students. Lap quilts have been made



for church members who are ill and for veterans. Several lap quilts were also donated to patients in a nursing home. These ladies have even sent lap quilts to the Saint Jude Children's Hospital for their patients.

The Covid-19 pandemic didn't discourage these ladies from their desire to help the church. They

know that where there is a will, there is a way. Diane Brown cut the



material needed for the quilts, Esther Torres sewed the pieces together, and then Diane added the finishing touch with the binding. When face masks became hard to find, they set out to make and donate masks for those who needed them. Monetary donations for the masks were donated to the church.

When the pandemic began to slow, Father Francois Rakotovoavy, M.S.F., pastor of Holy Family Parish, notified the ladies that the church hall has once again available for their sewing ministry.

Back in September 2014, a very special religious quilt was designed to be raffled during the Holy Family Parish's 50th anniversary celebration. Diane and Esther used the dresses from a loved one to make a very special memory quilt.

Several priests have been gifted lap quilts from the sewing ministry. There is a demand for special orders

for military and patriotic quilts. While countless lap quilts have been donated, others have been sold and all the proceeds are given to the church to be used as needed.

Most of the material and notions are donated by Diane and Esther. However, they are very thankful to everyone who has donated material and sewing accessories, which makes it possible for the ministry to continue. Any donations received are greatly appreciated.

These beautiful quilts have gone to



These are just a couple of the many quilts made with Love.

different parts of Texas and even to other states. As 1 Peter 4:10 reads, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Diane and Esther do more than sew. They demonstrate commitment and dedication as parishioners of Holy Family Church. Every stitch is sewn with love and care for the one who is to receive it. These ladies are truly good and faithful servants. A talent, a gift that is "sew" beautiful! **+JM+**



## SEMINARY DAZE

# Legend of the Secret Passage

by Mike O'Neal — Class of 1967

I consider myself fortunate to have been an MSF seminarian in the mid to late 1960s. When I was 14 and headed toward high school, it seemed as though all things were possible, and thus began an adventure of a lifetime.

Upon my arrival at Holy Family Seminary, I was escorted to a dormitory to put away the new clothes my mother had carefully folded in my luggage. The dorm was located on the third floor of a stately, old, turn of the century mansion.

As we climbed the grand staircase to the second floor landing, you still had to navigate up one more flight of steps, called the servants' stairway, to reach the sleeping quarters. It reminded me a bit like entering an army barracks that you see in the movies furnished with empty dressers, unmade beds, and multiple sink basins arranged on one of the walls.

The following day, we were assigned our cleaning chores. I was shown a small

closet located underneath that same grand staircase which stored the many cleaning supplies used each morning. We were asked to dust the expensively fashioned, walnut paneled walls. Funny, but I remember pressing on some of these panels to see if they might spring open and unlock a hidden cabinet.



Mike O'Neal today.

One day, while exploring the school's library rooms, and under a bay window cushion seat, to my surprise I found a mysterious trap door. Inside was a compartment lined with loose boards. Underneath one of the planks lay a dusty old book written in German. I don't recall what happened to the book, but to me it was like finding a long lost treasure.

The library also housed a magnificent fireplace detailed with intricately carved, growling lions. They seemed to be staring out at me as they guarded each side of the hearth. Sometimes, I'd pull on a lion's tooth or press on one of their eyes to see if something might

magically move. Sadly, nothing every happened. I was so disappointed!

The legend of a secret passage must have been started by upper classmen, maybe just to taunt us gullible and naïve freshmen, but I remember taking up this quest with all the enthusiasm of Howard Carter looking for a long lost Egyptian king. Many of my classmates like Patrick Goddard, Ed Koeninger, Johnny Mendez, Keith Bender, and Miguel Sanchez helped me examine every crack in every wall of every room in the seminary.

Rumors of a secret passage was said to have led from the main building to the back building. Who knows? I suppose it could still lay undiscovered to this very day.

Reminiscing about my time in the seminary, and boarding away from home at an early age, almost seems unimaginable in today's world. I have a million memories of my six years with the Missionaries of the Holy Family. There were fun times, sad times, and privileged encounters with holy men who were my teachers and mentors.

In 1964, liturgical changes instituted by Vatican II came to our seminary in Overland, Missouri. I witnessed the transition of choirs singing Gregorian Chant to Frater Jim Wuerth and John

Avila enthusiastically playing guitar music at daily Mass.

The first altar in the seminary chapel facing the people was made from birch plywood for the structural base and, believe it or not, Father Rindt found a slab of hard maple from the bowling alley lane for the top of the altar. It weighed a ton! Father allowed me to chisel out the deep recess where the altar stone was placed.

Life as a seminary student was very structured. From the time we woke up in the mornings until lights out, we observed many hours of holy silence. Even during meals, conversation was not allowed. We'd fill the time listening to a student read chapters from the *Lives of the Saints*. It was always a special treat when Father John McDermott, our rector, proclaimed, "Deo Gratias!" when a guest arrived unexpectedly for dinner and was seated at the main table. Then everyone was happy because, at last, we could talk with each other!

The Annual Patron's Card Party was an important fundraising event. The women who hosted it worked all year long gathering donations and prizes from local businesses. It seemed like hundreds of people turned out for the evening to play cards, maybe purchase a chance at winning a homemade



Mike (right) and his brothers.

quilt, receive attendance prizes, and have an enjoyable time.

I remember looking forward to spending time visiting with Grandma Millie, her two sisters, and my mother Josephine.

The older seminarians were responsible for parking cars and directing traffic. We sold homemade candles, fundraising candies, and scratch off tickets. I wonder how many people today remember those good people of a more innocent time? Our unselfish patrons greatly helped support the students and upkeep of buildings and property.

I feel fortunate having the experiences and life lessons of my seminary days; they have served me well. Later, for example, it was much easier for me to transition to living in a military barracks because I had done all of this before (at

the seminary)! My Christian education gave me roots, even when my faith

sometimes wavered. Once, when I thought God would have a hard time forgiving me for the sins of my past, a wise priest

from Holy Family Seminary told me:

“Don’t you know that the Almighty is a Big Boy and can’t be bothered by holding grudges like humans do? Quit beating yourself up and know that God loves you and will always forgive you.” Made sense to me. What a relief!

I’ve learned that some secret passages are in our hearts. The Gospels tell us these passages are to be explored with the love and forgiveness of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am blessed, and God bless your family too. +JM+



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**God bless your family! +JMJ+**



# HOPELESSLY DEVOTED TO YOU

## An Invitation to Devotion

by Celia Barragan and Veronica Subia



**O**ur Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Parish in New Braunfels, Texas continues to display their devotion to Mary, Our Blessed Mother, through the Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Guadalpanas (m a s c u l i n e , Guadalpanos) has been in existence since the late 1950s. Some of today's members are second and third generation Guadalpanas.

The society's mission is to promote and encourage devotion to the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as

she appeared to Saint Juan Diego on the Hill of Tepeyac in Mexico City in 1531.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month at 6:30 p.m., you will find members of the Guadalpanas gathered at the grotto on the parish campus praying the Rosary. Everyone is invited to bring their Rosary and lawn chair to join them during this beautiful devotion. When the weather is cold or rainy, they meet inside the church.

In the summer of 2019, Toni Peters,



the Guadalpanas' past president, proposed to the society members to take the Rosary to the homes of elderly members, to those in poor health, and others who had Covid-19. With this



mission in mind, the Traveling Rosary was born. Society members, with a Rosary in one hand and a lawn chair in the other, gathered outside the homes of people who requested the Rosary to be prayed. All participants joined the group outside maintaining safe social distancing.

If you are looking for something sweet to eat, the Guadalupanas have a bake sale on the First Sunday of every month. You'll find all sorts of delicious desserts at their table after each Mass. Money from the bake sale fundraisers provide scholarships for graduating students from our parish. They also contribute to improvements or any needs of the church or parish campus. The Guadalupanas Society fosters friendship and community among our members and parishioners.

The OLPH Guadalupanas have participated in several spiritual retreats at various churches in San Antonio organized by the Federation of Guadalupanos of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. In October 2021, the society attended a retreat at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Antonio. The retreat began in church with a Rosary, followed by the thunder of drums and dancing matachines to honor the Virgin

of Guadalupe, concluding with Mass.

Retreatants were treated to breakfast at the church hall as they prepared to listen to guest speakers. These retreats provide fellowship among other Guadalupanas in the area as well as serving to inspire members to continue the mission in their respective parishes.

Another annual event that the Guadalupanas attend is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Saint Mark the Evangelist Church in San Antonio. Many Societies of Our Lady of Guadalupe from

the surrounding area participate in the event. As tradition has it, the dancing of the matachines opens the event, followed by Mass.

Each society is represented as they process into the church with their banner and present roses to lay at the feet of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Our Lady is then crowned by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller. Following Mass, all attendees were invited to a tamale dinner luncheon. Music was provided by mariachis in the parish hall.

Every 12<sup>th</sup> of December, as dawn breaks, the Guadalupanas begin their morning by serenading Our Lady of Guadalupe with Las Mañanitas at the grotto on the parish campus. Parishioners then



enter the church to attend Mass. At the foot of the Virgin of Guadalupe, numerous candles can be seen which have been purchased in memory of loved ones. New members of the Guadalupanas are installed during Mass and all candles are lit. This is truly a sign of our Catholic Faith and honor to Our Blessed Mother.



cers: President - Diana Garcia, Vice President - Veronica Subia, Secretary - Donna Arrellano, Treasurer - Virginia Villareal, Sergeant at Arms - Raymond Villareal, and Parliamentarian - Elsa Reyna.

The Guadalupanas at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in New Braunfels

During the month of October 2021, the election of officers took place. The following are presently serving as offi-

cers: President - Diana Garcia, Vice President - Veronica Subia, Secretary - Donna Arrellano, Treasurer - Virginia Villareal, Sergeant at Arms - Raymond Villareal, and Parliamentarian - Elsa Reyna. extend an invitation to anyone, male or female, interested in being a part of the society. Come to a meeting, spend some time with us, and join us in our devotion to Our Blessed Mother Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe. +JM+

## Men of God: Priests Forever



**Fr. Dan Hawkins, M.S.F.**  
45 years



**Fr. Eka Yuntoro, M.S.F.**  
20 years

In this Year of Our Lord 2022, two priests of the Missionaries of the Holy Family are celebrating anniversaries of their ordination.

We thank God for our priests and brothers, and we beseech Him to send us many more.

If you would like to send a Tribute Gift in honor of one or more of these Men of God, please send it to 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118.

Thank you and God bless your family!

*Around The Province...*

*Texas Style Passion in New Braunfels*





## PLEASE COME HOME

# Back to Church: Post Covid-19

by Father F.A. Eka Yuantoro, M.S.F.

Although we are now in the synodal process within the Church, the number of parishioners returning to local churches is low because they are still afraid of the coronavirus. Many lost loved ones, and it is a bad memory for them. However, we must move on and build a new life together. We must bring the lost sheep back to their parish homes.

### New Evangelization

When God created man in his own image (Genesis 1:27), He gave them a social nature. Male and female He created them. At Pentecost, God gave a new spirit to the disciples of Jesus, a new creation born of the Spirit, and it is called the Church. Within his writings, Francis Cardinal Arinze notes that "God elevated man to the order of grace through salvation in Jesus Christ. Jesus sent his disciples to baptize all nations in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)."



If a parish is to function well as a community, the people should know each other and make an effort to build it up in love (Ephesians 4:16). In the document from the Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium (The Light of the World)*: "We are co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord, in Baptism and Confirmation we are initiated into Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit, and in the Eucharist we share the most precious possession which the Church can have in her journey throughout history."

Our spiritual shepherds and laypeople together build up the mystical Body of Christ in the world. In the apostolic exhortation from Pope Francis, *Evangelium Gaudium*: "We must be friends to the lonely, poor, oppressed, strangers, and the disabled. They are members of the Church, and priests and laypeople need to work together to share the joy, justice, and love of all."

## Missionary Outreach

Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Saint John Paul II also stressed the need to go to the peripheries and encounter the people who are far from the love of God. In a unified message, Pope Francis emphasized the need to reach out to people who need the light of the Gospel. Evangelization is not a program of Pope Paul VI or Pope Saint John Paul II, but for everyone who has been baptized into Christ Jesus.

Likewise, Avery Cardinal Dulles, SJ encouraged all people to participate in the mission of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the Good News, and to create a culture of life. Each parish community must have a program of missionary outreach, and members must be empowered to act because our spiritual shepherds already have many demands on their time. Parishes must be proactive.

Father Guy Roberts wrote *The Heart of the New Evangelization: A Parish Manual for the New Evangelization*. He explains the triangle of mission: faith, community, and service. People can put into service the Word of God if they have a faith strong enough to do so. This faith depends on an encounter with Jesus!

We are one family and one heart in

Jesus Christ Our Savior. Father Guy Roberts suggests four steps for the New Evangelization: (1) hearing the call of Jesus, (2) answering the call of Jesus, (3) a commitment to lifelong faith formation, and (4) proclaiming the Good News. A community of love will attract more disciples!

Avery Cardinal Dulles, SJ explains that the process of evangelization could be accomplished by six actions: (1) personal witness, (2) proclamation of the Word of God, (3) worship, (4) forming a community of disciples, (5) enculturation or adaptation of Christian teachings and practices, and (6) works of charity and mercy.

## Journey with Jesus Christ

Covid-19 has damaged many elements of community life, so now we have to rise with Jesus to build up His mystical body to a new life in Christ. As stated in *Gaudium et Spes* from the Second Vatican Council: "The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted are the joys and hopes, grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well."

According to Pope Pius XII, Jesus is the head of the Church, and we are the members of the body of the



Church as the mystical body of Christ: “Even more, it is represented as being so close that the Apostle says, ‘He (Christ) is the Head of the Body of the Church,’ and the unbroken tradition of the Fathers from the earliest times teaches that the Divine Redeemer and the Society which is His Body form but one mystical person, that is to say to quote Augustine, the whole Christ.”

Where do we begin to evangelize? In reality, we begin at the parish level where the people of God live together and worship in God’s Church. Priests and laypeople work and walk together in this program to share the joy of the Gospel, post Covid-19. This is our opportunity as members of the Mystical Body of Christ in the third millennium. [+jMj+](#)



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*Love your siblings!  
See page 6.*



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