



The Friday E-Pistle

January 18, 2013

[Print this issue](#)

A message from Bishop Vásquez

Official appointment

- Deacon Roy Callison to St. Mary, Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lago Vista, effective Jan. 15, 2013.

Liturgy and the flu

In order to prevent the spread of disease during flu season, I am sending the attached document on common-sense liturgical practices. This information should be shared with parish staff, liturgical ministers and members of the faithful. It is offered in English and Spanish.

Resource Documents

- [Liturgy and the Flu in English](#)
- [Liturgy and the Flu in Spanish](#)

Poverty Awareness Month

January is Poverty Awareness Month. According to povertyusa.org, 9.5 million U.S. families, or 11.8 percent of families, live in poverty, 25 percent of children under the age of 6 live in poverty and 20.4 million people live in deep poverty or are living at less than half the poverty line. Also, 23 million people are unemployed or underemployed. [Povertyusa.org](http://povertyusa.org) is a website sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The site is now available in Spanish at pobrezausa.org.

- [Poverty USA](#)
- [Pobreza USA](#)

Feast of the Annunciation

March 25, 2013, is the Monday of Holy Week. The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is normally assigned to March 25. However, because it falls during Holy Week this year, the feast of the Annunciation will be transferred to Monday, April 8, 2013.

World Day for Consecrated Life

The religious orders and communities of women and men serving in the Diocese of Austin will celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life on Feb. 2, as Bishop Vásquez' guests at the Pastoral Center in Austin. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. in the John Paul II Conference Room with a presentation by Bishop Vásquez on the New Evangelization. The event will include an opportunity to honor our Jubilarians, as well as an opportunity to tour the recent Pastoral Center renovations, including a visit to the Catholic Archives of Texas, which has relocated to the Pastoral Center.

Mass will not be celebrated at this event. Members of religious communities who have not already responded to the initial invitation, please respond by Jan. 21 to Janice Ingram at (512) 949-2401 or e-mail her at the address linked below. Those who are celebrating a jubilee year in 2013 should also inform Janice Ingram.

- [Janice Ingram](#)

Reflection question

Gospel meditation

Please consider using the following question for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jan. 27):

- Today's Gospel presents the story of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus goes to the synagogue and reads the passage from Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." God's Spirit prompts us to pray, to do good, to follow our faith. How do you experience the presence the "Spirit of the Lord" in your life?
- El Evangelio de hoy nos presenta la historia del comienzo del ministerio público de Jesús. Jesús va a la sinagoga y lee el pasaje de Isaías: "El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí..." El Espíritu de Dios nos impulsa a orar, a hacer el bien, a seguir nuestra fe. ¿Cómo experimenta la presencia del "Espíritu del Señor" en su vida?

Black Catholics Office

Annual MLK Mass

The Office of Black Catholics of the Diocese of Austin is sponsoring the annual diocesan-wide Martin Luther King Mass at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 20, beginning with a prelude at 9:45 a.m. at Holy Cross Parish, 1610 E. 11th St. in Austin. The main celebrant will be Missionary Society of St. Paul Father Basil Aguzie and the homilist will be Deacon Frank Ashley of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in College Station. All are invited to attend.

Annual blood drive

The Office of Black Catholics of the Diocese of Austin is sponsoring the 10th annual "Blood of the Martyrs" Blood Drive in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. See the flier linked below for more information.

- [Blood Driver flier](#)

Stewardship and Development Office

Make a Gift through an IRA Charitable Rollover

Normally, a distribution from your IRA is taxed as ordinary income. However, "fiscal cliff" tax legislation just enacted extends the opportunity throughout 2013 for individuals 70½ or older to make a direct distribution from your IRA to a qualified charity, such as your parish, school, Catholic Services Appeal, Catholic Foundation – Diocese of Austin, or another diocesan institution. Such qualified direct distributions to charity from your IRA are not subject to income tax. The new law also provides that you may consider such distributions made in January 2013 as made in 2012. In addition, the new law provides a special election available to individuals who took a distribution from their IRA after Nov. 30, 2012 and before Jan. 1, 2013, and who make a

gift to a qualified charity before Feb. 1, 2013, to treat the gift as an IRA charitable rollover even though the distribution is not directly from the IRA to charity.

For more information about how you and the Church can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, contact Scott Whitaker in the Stewardship and Development Office at (512) 949-2441 or e-mail him at the address linked below.

- [Scott Whitaker](#)

Family Life Office

Training for marriage prep facilitators in Spanish

- Priests, deacons and marriage preparation volunteers are invited to a training session for the diocesan marriage preparation program, Together in God's Love. This program covers all of the guidelines of the U.S. bishops for marriage preparation; it is offered in English and Spanish; and taking it allows couples to waive their \$60 state marriage license fee. The training session will be given in Spanish at St. William Parish in Round Rock and the cost is \$30 per person/\$45 per couple. Those interested in offering this program to married couples are invited to attend on Feb. 2 from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information or to register, call the Office of Family Life at (512) 949-2495 or visit the website linked below.

- Entrenamiento para presentadores de preparación matrimonial en español:
Sacerdotes, diáconos y voluntarios de preparación matrimonial están invitados a una sesión de entrenamiento para facilitadores del programa prematrimonial, Unidos en el Amor de Dios. Este programa cubre todas las directrices de los obispos de Estados Unidos para la preparación del matrimonio; se ofrece en inglés y español y permite a las parejas que lo tomen obtener un descuento de \$60 del costo de la licencia estatal de matrimonio. La sesión de entrenamiento se dará en español en la Parroquia de St. William en Round Rock y el costo es de \$30 por persona/\$45 por pareja. Los interesados en ofrecer este programa a las parejas casadas están invitados a asistir el 2 de Febrero de 2013 de 1 pm a 5:30pm. Para obtener más información o para registrarse, visite www.austindiocese.org/famlife o llame a la Oficina de Vida Familiar al (512) 949-2495.

- [Family Life website](#)

Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center

Upcoming retreats

- A Silent Day of Reflection will be presented Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Belton. For more information or to register, contact Cedarbrake at (254) 780-2436.
- Fireside Reflection, a retreat, will be presented Feb. 8-10 at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Belton. For more information or to register, contact Cedarbrake at (254) 780-2436.

Worship Office

Rite of Election

The Rite of Election with Bishop Joe S. Vásquez will be celebrated on Sunday, Feb. 17 in two locations. RCIA directors must submit the names of the catechumens and candidates that will be attending. The deadline for registration is Feb. 8. Visit the link below to register.

- [Rite of Election registration](#)

White Mass

The Catholic Physician's Guild of Central Texas cordially invites clinicians, health care providers, administrators, and other interested parties to attend the 12th annual White Mass. Bishop Joe S. Vásquez will preside over this special Mass at St. Mary Cathedral in downtown Austin on Monday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. All are welcome to a reception to be held immediately following the Mass. Please RSVP to the address linked below.

- [Catholic Physician's Guild of Central Texas e-mail](#)

Diaconal Formation Office

Information sessions for the diaconate

Men who are exploring a call to the diaconate, but who missed attending one of the recent Information Sessions, are encouraged to e-mail their interest/contact information to the Office of Diaconal Formation at the e-mail address linked below. This information will help the Office plan any additional Information Sessions that might be needed.

- [Diaconal Formation Office e-mail](#)

Weekly notes

Bishop Vásquez' prayer intention

Please consider Bishop Vásquez' prayer intention for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jan. 20):

- That we may all be aware of the poverty that exists within our parish community and that we may work together to eliminate it ...
- Que todos estemos conscientes de la pobreza que existe en nuestra comunidad parroquial y que trabajemos juntos para eliminarla...

Blessings and congratulations ...

- To Dr. Robert Buchanan, of Austin, was appointed to the Pontifical Academy for Life by Pope Benedict XVI.
- To the following priests on the anniversary of their priestly ordination during the month of February: Rev. Pedro Garcia-Ramirez, Feb. 1, 1992; Rev. Joe Frazer, Feb. 25, 1984 and Rev. Leonard J. Onwumere, Feb. 28, 1990.

Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM)

Upcoming EIM Basic and Refresher Workshops

EIM Basic and Refresher Workshops are scheduled on a quarterly basis by the EIM Office, coordinating with the EIM site administrator at parishes, schools and other diocesan agencies. Staff of these sites wishing to host a workshop must coordinate with their EIM site administrator. The EIM site administrator should make all workshop requests on the Workshop Request Table

which is sent to parishes/schools a few months prior to each new schedule block. **Additional workshops will not be added to the EIM workshop calendar unless the EIM office determines a particular need.** EIM site administrators may direct inquiries about EIM workshop scheduling to [Emily Hurlmann](#) or [Colleen Schiller](#) in the EIM Office at (512) 949-2400.

To determine which type of EIM workshop you need to attend, please click [here](#). Currently scheduled 1½ hour EIM Refresher Workshops and 3-hour EIM Basic Workshops are listed here:

Date	Time	Location	Phone
Wed, Feb 6, 2013	6 to 9 p.m.	St. Louis Catholic School, Waco , Waco	254-754-2041
Thu, Feb 7, 2013	6 to 7:30 p.m.	St. Jerome Parish , Waco - REFRESHER*	254-666-7722
Thu, Feb 7, 2013	7 to 8:30 p.m.	St. Mary Cathedral Parish , Austin - REFRESHER*	512-476-6182
Thu, Feb 7, 2013	6:15 to 9:15 p.m.	St. Mary, Church of the Assumption , West	254-826-3705
Sat, Feb 9, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	St. Joseph Regional Health Ctr, 2801 Franciscan Blvd, Bryan 77802 (Education Ctr - basement rm E-F)	979-776-3988 opt 3
Sat, Feb 9, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	Emmaus Parish , Lakeway - En Español	512-261-8500
Sat, Feb 16, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	Ascension Parish , Bastrop	512-321-3552
Sat, Feb 16, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	St. Margaret Mary Parish , Cedar Park - En Español	512-259-3126
Sat, Feb 16, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	St. Louis Parish , Austin	512-454-0384
Sat, Feb 16, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	St. Anthony Marie de Claret , Kyle	512-268-5311
Mon, Feb 18, 2013	6 to 9 p.m.	St. Julia Parish , Austin - En Español	512-926-4186
Sat, Feb 23, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	San Jose Parish , Austin - En Español	512-444-7587
Sat, Feb 23, 2013	6:30 to 9:30 p.m.	St. William Parish , Round Rock - En Español	512-255-4473
Wed, Feb 27, 2013	6 to 9 p.m.	St. Catherine of Siena, Austin (a regular English-language workshop; also includes sign language interpreter)	512-892-2420
Thu, Feb 28, 2013	7 to 8:30 p.m.	St. Martin de Porres Parish , Dripping Springs - REFRESHER*	512-858-5667
Sat, Mar 2, 2013	1 to 4 p.m.	St. Anthony Marie de Claret , Kyle - En Español	512-268-5311
Sat, Mar 2, 2013	9 to 10:30 a.m.	St. Anthony Marie de Claret , Kyle - REFRESHER*	512-268-5311
Sat, Mar 2, 2013	1 to 2:30 p.m.	St. John the Evangelist Parish , San Marcos - REFRESHER*	512-353-8969
Tue, Mar 5, 2013	6 to 9 pm	St. Jerome Parish , Waco	254-666-7722
Thu, Mar 7, 2013	6:30 to 9:30 p.m.	St. Martin de Porres Parish , Dripping Springs	512-858-5667
Mon, Mar 18, 2013	6 to 9 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish , Manor - En Español	512-272-4004

Click here to view [sample bulletin announcements](#) to let parishioners know of these workshops.

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