



The Friday E-Pistle

January 25, 2013

[Print this issue](#)

A message from Bishop Vásquez

Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference

We would like to thank Alison Tate, the director of the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, and her staff for another very successful Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference. The conference was held in Waco and was attended by more than 2,300 young people.

Year of Faith

The Year of Faith is not only an occasion for us to understand more deeply our Christian faith; it is also a call for us to bear witness to that faith and to share it with joy. We are called to a renewed conversion to the Lord Jesus and to the rediscovery of our faith, so others may come to know Christ through us. In a few short weeks, the church will begin the holy season of Lent, a season that we need in order to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for sharing our faith. In many instances, during the season of Lent, people respond to God calling them to return to the church, where they are seeking compassion, mercy and forgiveness.

As your parish prepares for the season of Lent, reflect on how the parishioners and staff can welcome those whom the Lord is calling to return to the Catholic Church, the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has a wonderful resource that reviews material to evangelize and welcome back inactive Catholics called "A Review of the Best Evangelization Methods and Resources Available for Parish Outreach Efforts." The resource is linked below.

- [**A Review of the Best Evangelization Methods and Resources Available for Parish Outreach Efforts**](#)

Special Collection: Feb. 9-10

All parishes in the Diocese of Austin are requested to take up a special collection on the weekend of Feb. 9-10 for Catholic Higher Education. The following announcements should be read before all Masses that weekend:

This weekend, Catholics in Central Texas are being asked to support Catholic higher education. This collection directly supports campus ministry programs at the colleges and universities in our diocese. Many of our Catholic students attend public and private universities. The church must have a strong presence at the center of campus life and in the hearts and lives of students, faculty and staff. Effective Catholic campus ministry programs will allow our young adult Catholics the opportunity to grow in their faith during their college years. Many young men and women are called to the priesthood and religious life through their experiences in a strong Catholic campus ministry program. Your generous support of these worthy programs is greatly appreciated.

- Este fin de semana, se les pide a los católicos en el centro de Texas que apoyen la educación superior católica. Esta colecta apoya directamente a los programas de pastoral universitaria en los colegios y las universidades de nuestra diócesis. Muchos de nuestros estudiantes católicos, asisten a universidades públicas y privadas. La Iglesia debe tener una fuerte presencia en el

centro de la vida universitaria y en los corazones y las vidas de los estudiantes, profesores y personal. Programas católicos de ministerio universitario efectivo permitirán a nuestros jóvenes adultos católicos la oportunidad de crecer en su fe durante sus años de universidad. Muchos jóvenes y jovencitas son llamados al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa a través de sus experiencias en programas fuertes de ministerio universitario católico. Valoramos sumamente su generoso apoyo a estos dignos programas.

Reflection question

Gospel meditation

Please consider using the following question for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Feb. 3):

- "They drove him out of the town," is a startling phrase in today's Gospel where Jesus is rejected by the people. They do not recognize him as the Messiah and see him as "Joseph's son." How does your Catholic faith help you to see Jesus in those around you? In what ways do you recognize Christ's presence in your life?

- "Ellos lo empujaron fuera de la ciudad", es una frase sorprendente en el Evangelio de hoy donde Jesús es rechazado por el pueblo. Ellos no lo reconocen como el Mesías, y lo ven como "el hijo de José".

¿Cómo le ayuda su fe católica a ver a Jesús en los que le rodean? ¿De qué forma reconoce la presencia de Cristo en su vida?

Stewardship and Development Office

Catholic Services Appeal

Thank you to the many generous donors who have made a gift to the CSA. To date, we have surpassed our pledge goal of \$4.5 million with pledges over \$4.7 million. Thank you!

So far, 87 parishes have surpassed their assigned goal and more than 19,000 families have pledged.

In the coming days, one more follow-up letter will be mailed to those families who have yet to renew their gift from last year.

Hispanic Ministry

Pastoral de Conjunto

To better serve the Hispanic Catholic community, Bishop Joe Vásquez has created the Pastoral de Conjunto. This term is used by the church to refer to an integration of different people and structures to better coordinate the many efforts of our diocese in serving the growing Hispanic community. Pastoral de Conjunto is rooted in the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry of the USCCB. Please see the letter to priests and the nomination form linked below. Priests should return their responses by Feb. 15.

Resource Documents

- [Pastoral de Conjunto Letter and Form](#)

Ethics and Integrity in Ministry

Interpreted workshop for the hearing impaired

The EIM Basic workshop scheduled for Feb. 27 from 6-9 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Austin will have interpreters for the deaf and hearing impaired. This workshop is a regular English -language workshop with sign language interpreters. To register for this workshop, please contact the parish directly at (512) 892-2420.

Young Adult Ministry

Theology on Tap

Holy Cross Father Peter Walsh, director of Campus Ministry at St. Edward's University, will discuss the challenges and realities of being a Catholic young adult at the next Theology on Tap on Feb. 7 at Fado Irish Pub (214 West Fourth Street Austin). Music begins at 6 p.m. and the presentation will start at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Jennifer Kodysz at (512) 949-2467 or e-mail her at the address linked below.

- [Jennifer Kodysz](#)

Vocation Office

Online retreat

The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul are offering an online vocation discernment retreat February 13-17. Single Catholic women ages 18-40 interested in a vocation as a sister are invited to participate. If interested, please contact Sister Denise LaRock, D.C. (410) 646-2074 or e-mail her at the address linked below.

- [Sister Denise LaRock, D.C.](#)
- [Daughters of Charity website](#)

Worship Office

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](#)

Weekly notes

Bishop Vásquez' prayer intention

The incorrect date was given for the prayer intention given in last week's E-Pistle. The date has been corrected below:

Please consider Bishop Vásquez' prayer intention for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jan. 27):

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

Please consider Bishop Vásquez' prayer intention for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Feb. 3)

- That those who reject Jesus today, may they come to know his love and his peace ...
- Para que aquellos que rechazan a Jesús hoy, puedan llegar a conocer su amor y su paz.

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 Hurlimann](#) 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	<u>St. Louis Parish</u> , Austin	512-454-0384
Sat, Feb 16, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	<u>St. Anthony Marie de Claret</u> , Kyle	512-268-5311
Mon, Feb 18, 2013	6 to 9 p.m.	<u>St. Julia Parish</u> , Austin - <i>En Español</i>	512-926-4186
Sat, Feb 23, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	<u>San Jose Parish</u> , Austin - <i>En Español</i>	512-444-7587
Sat, Feb 23, 2013	6:30 to 9:30 p.m.	<u>St. William Parish</u> , Round Rock - <i>En Español</i>	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.	<u>St. Martin de Porres Parish</u> , Dripping Springs - <i>REFRESHER*</i>	512-858-5667
Sat, Mar 2, 2013	1 to 4 p.m.	<u>St. Anthony Marie de Claret</u> , Kyle - <i>En Español</i>	512-268-5311
Sat, Mar 2, 2013	9 to 10:30 a.m.	<u>St. Anthony Marie de Claret</u> , Kyle - <i>REFRESHER*</i>	512-268-5311
Sat, Mar 2, 2013	1 to 2:30 p.m.	<u>St. John the Evangelist Parish</u> , San Marcos - <i>REFRESHER*</i>	512-353-8969
Tue, Mar 5, 2013	6 to 9 pm	<u>St. Jerome Parish</u> , Waco	254-666-7722
Thu, Mar 7, 2013	6:30 to 9:30 p.m.	<u>St. Martin de Porres Parish</u> , Dripping Springs	512-858-5667
Mon, Mar 18, 2013	6 to 9 p.m.	<u>St. Joseph Parish</u> , Manor - <i>En Español</i>	512-272-4004

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

© 2005 - 2012 Diocese of Austin | 6225 Highway 290 East | Austin, TX 78723-1025 | 512-949-2400

[Acceptable Use Policy](#)

Materials may be freely copied and distributed by parishes, schools and other organizations under the auspices of the Austin Diocese, subject to inclusion of the copyright notice and our web site address. Reproduction permission by others may be obtained by [contacting our webmaster](#).