



Diocese of Austin

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Diocese mourns Bryan firefighters

AUSTIN – The Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin is thankful to the Bryan Fire Department and the College Station Fire Department and all those who assisted in responding to the fire at the Knights of Columbus Hall on February 15, 2013. We were saddened to hear about the death of two Bryan firefighters and injuries to two other firefighters while battling the fire.

Lt. Eric Wallace, of the Bryan Fire Department, was killed while fighting the fire in the 1500 block of Groesbeck Drive late Friday night. Lt. Gregory W. Pickard died Saturday from injuries he sustained while fighting the fire. Firefighter Ricky D. Mantey Jr. and Probationary Firefighter Mitchel S. Moran were injured in the fire.

We offer prayers for Lt. Eric Wallace and Lt. Gregory W. Pickard and their families and for the firefighters who were injured. We offer our most sincere condolences to Lt. Wallace's widow, and his five children; as well as Lt. Pickard's family and to the Bryan Fire Department.

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The Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin includes 127 parishes, or faith communities, in 25 counties in Central Texas. The diocese stretches over 21,000 square miles from West, Texas, (just north of Waco) in the north to San Marcos in the south to the Bryan/College Station area in the east to Mason in the west. Its largest metropolitan areas are Austin, Bryan/College Station, the Killeen/Temple/Belton area and Waco. More than 109,000 Catholic families live in the diocese, approximately 509,000 Catholics. There are 227 priests, 168 deacons, 46 brothers and 102 sisters serving in the diocese.