# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHEDRAL PARISH

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES Established 1982



March 16, 2025

## 1240 S. Espina, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001

(575) 524-8563 • Fax: (575) 523-2252 • www.ihmcathedral.org • Email: frontdesk@ihmcathedral.org

### CLERGY

Bishop: Most Rev. Peter Baldacchino, J.C.L.

Rector: Rev. Alejandro Reyes Cardenas

Deacons:

Deacon Ed Fierro

Deacon Ed Fierro Deacon Ruben Gutierrez



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## **SCHEDULE OF LITURGIES / MISAS**

WEEKENDS / FINES DE LA SEMANA Saturday Vigil/Vigilia los Sabados: 5:30 p.m. (English) Sunday/Domingo: 7:30a.m., 11:00a.m. (English) 9:00a.m. (Español)

# WEEKDAYS / DÍAS DE LA SEMANA

Mon. to Sat.:8:15 a.m. (English)Tuesday:6:00 p.m. (Español)Thursday:6:00 p.m. Holy Hour (Español)Friday:3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (English)

Baptism: Call Office to Register for Classes Classes offered 3rd Saturday of every month Spanish: 10AM-12PM and English: 12PM-2PM Confessions in Church: Monday - Friday: 7am-8am Sat.: 4pm-5pm OR ANYTIME BY APPOINTMENT WITH ONE OF THE PRIESTS

OR ANYTIME BY APPOINTMENT WITH ONE OF THE PRIESTS Anointing of the Sick: Upon Request Marriage: Call Parish Office for Preparation at least 6 months in advance and before setting a firm date.





Registration: We welcome new parishioners, winter visitors and visiting friends to our parish. New members are encouraged to visit the IHM office to complete a registration form. We encourage you to use your envelope even if your donation is a modest one; this helps us to know that you are an active parishioner.





# From the **Rector**

# The Scandal of the Cross and the Power of the Resurrection!

Dear brothers and sister as we Journey together as pilgrims of hope as a group from the dioceses of Las Cruces NM, we have had the opportunity to contemplate several mountains in our way down to Veracruz, we know that since the ancient times the mountains were places of encounter with God. However, for us during this pilgrimage to Mexico the Eucharist has been the most powerful place of encounter where Jesus has showed us his love. We had the opportunity to celebrate Mass every day in different churches, the basilica, and Saint Michaels Cathedral in Jalapa Veracruz. We also passed through several Jubilee doors and had the opportunity to experience the joy of his presence and mercy.

Today we contemplate the pivotal episode of the transfiguration of the Lord, we also contemplate Jesus in prayer and unity with the father and the apostles been filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. As we enter the second Sunday of Lent, I would like to invite you to become more prayerful and grateful for the manifestation of love of the Holy trinity. With out true and sincere prayer it will be impossible for us to understand Jesus' transfiguration.

In this passage the lord prepares his disciples for the scandal of the cross and giving them the necessary courage to overcome their fears to die. This event is a little taste of the glory of God. How many times we ourselves are afraid to follow Jesus because the many implications of discipleship specially the invitation to die. For this important reason I invite you to allow the holy spirit to emerge into your lives to allow him to remove your fears and concerns and to prepare you for these coming paschal celebrations. There is no resurrection without crucifixion but after the crucifixion there is resurrection.

I would like to share our pilgrimage to Mexico was an amazing and unique experience because the lord allowed us to see His face and the great love, he fills for us in the Eucharist but also in the face of others. We were impressed by the vision of the face of the transfigured one. The people we meet on the streets, the poor, the needed and the outcast are a blessing in our lives, but also the kindness and love of those whom we encounter in our road.

Also, the desert of New Mexico is a blessing to us, it is an opportunity to remember that as the people of Israel we are called to journey together. I have a very important request for you today: Let us get out of our rigid structures, patterns or schemes let us ask the Lord to open our senses, our eyes so that we may see and understand the power of his sacrifice and resurrection.

On the other had we shall not lose the sense of amazement, I don't know if this is just my impression but so often, we just fall into the routine and nothing amazes us. We go with society and do not care about what is happening, nothing surprises us, our senses can become numb by the many distractions of our present life.

Ask the Lord this Sunday to reveal to you the power of his glory to let it be reflected in you that may others see in you the joy of this time of grace. Let us ask him to grant us the grace to be impressed by the vision of the face of the transfigured one. Let us stop our lack of amazement that we may become authentic witnesses of the risen Christ this coming Easter season.

"Let none be ashamed of Christ's cross, though which the world was redeemed. Since all the weakness of our humility was assumed by him, in whom, if we abide in the acknowledgment and love of Him, we conquer as he conquered, and receive what he promised" (Saint Leo the great)

Finally let us listen to the voice of the magisterium of the church and our holy father the pope who says quoting Henri De Lucas opinion that the worst evil " the Church can incur is

" Spiritual worldliness": The danger of the church is to believe that we have light of our own", that counts on our own strength, our own tragedies, our own efficiency and this ceases to be the magisterium line, that is no longer living and acting only by the grace of the one who said: without me you can do nothing"

Please do not forget to pray for our Pope a fragile voice who continues to implore peace and not war, dialogue and not oppression, compassion and not indifference.

Have a blessed Sunday

In Christ Father Alejandro Reyes Cardenas Rector.

# ¡El Escándalo de la Cruz y el Poder de la Resurrección!

Queridos hermanos y hermanas, en nuestro peregrinar de esperanza, como grupo de la Diócesis de Las Cruces, Nuevo México, hemos tenido la oportunidad de contemplar varias montañas en nuestro descenso a Veracruz. Sabemos que desde la antigüedad las montañas han sido lugares de encuentro con Dios. Sin embargo, para nosotros, durante esta peregrinación a México, la Eucaristía ha sido el lugar de encuentro más poderoso, donde Jesús nos ha mostrado su amor. Tuvimos la oportunidad de celebrar la Santa Misa todos los días en diferentes iglesias, como la Basílica y la Catedral de San Miguel en Jalapa, Veracruz. También pasamos por varias puertas del Jubileo y tuvimos la oportunidad de...

Experimentar la alegría de su presencia y misericordia.

Hoy contemplamos el episodio crucial de la transfiguración del Señor. Contemplamos también a Jesús en oración y unidad con el Padre y los apóstoles, llenos del gozo del Espíritu Santo. Al comenzar el segundo domingo de Cuaresma, los invito a ser más orantes y agradecidos por la manifestación del amor de la Santísima Trinidad. Sin una oración verdadera y sincera, nos será imposible comprender la transfiguración de Jesús.

En este pasaje, el Señor prepara a sus discípulos para el escándalo de la cruz y les da la valentía necesaria para superar su miedo a morir. Este evento es una pequeña muestra de la gloria de Dios. Cuántas veces nosotros mismos tenemos miedo de seguir a Jesús debido a las múltiples implicaciones del discipulado, especialmente la invitación a morir. Por esta importante razón, los invito a permitir que el Espíritu Santo emerja en sus vidas para que Él disipe sus miedos e inquietudes y los prepare para las próximas celebraciones pascuales. No hay resurrección sin crucifixión, pero después de la crucifixión hay resurrección.

Quisiera compartir que nuestra peregrinación a México fue una experiencia increíble y única, porque el Señor nos permitió ver su rostro y el gran amor que nos llena en la Eucaristía, pero también en el rostro de los demás. Nos impresionó la visión del rostro del Transfigurado. Las personas que encontramos en las calles, los pobres, los necesitados y los marginados, son una bendición en nuestras vidas, pero también la bondad y el amor de quienes encontramos en nuestro camino.

Además, el desierto de Nuevo México es una bendición para nosotros; es una oportunidad para recordar que, como pueblo de Israel, estamos llamados a caminar juntos. Tengo una petición muy importante para ustedes hoy: Salgamos de nuestras estructuras, patrones o esquemas rígidos; pidamos al Señor que abra nuestros sentidos, nuestros ojos, para que podamos ver y comprender el poder de su sacrificio y resurrección.

Por otro lado, no debemos perder la capacidad de asombro. No sé si es solo mi impresión, pero a menudo caemos en la rutina y nada nos sorprende. Nos dejamos llevar por la sociedad y no nos importa lo que sucede, nada nos sorprende, nuestros sentidos pueden adormecerse por las muchas distracciones de nuestra vida presente.

Pidan al Señor este domingo que les revele el poder de su gloria para que se refleje en ustedes y otros vean en ustedes la alegría de este tiempo de gracia. Pidámosle que nos conceda la gracia de ser impresionados por la visión del rostro del transfigurado. Dejemos de lado la falta de asombro para que seamos auténticos testigos de Cristo resucitado en esta próxima Pascua.

"Que nadie se avergüence de la cruz de Cristo, por la cual el mundo fue redimido. Ya que toda la debilidad de nuestra humildad fue asumida por él, en quien, si permanecemos en el reconocimiento, y por amor a Él, vencemos como Él venció y recibimos lo que prometió" (San León Magno).

Finalmente, escuchemos la voz del magisterio de la Iglesia y de nuestro santo padre el Papa, quien, citando la opinión de Henri De Lucas, dice que el peor mal que la Iglesia puede incurrir es la "mundanidad espiritual": el peligro de la Iglesia que cree tener luz propia, que confía en su propia fuerza, sus propias tragedias, su propia eficiencia, y esto deja de ser la línea del magisterio, que ya no vive ni actúa solo por la gracia de quien dijo: "Sin mí nada podéis hacer".

Por favor, no olviden orar por nuestro Papa, una voz frágil que sigue implorando paz y no guerra, diálogo y no opresión, compasión y no indiferencia.

Que tengan un bendito domingo.

En Cristo, Padre Alejandro Reyes Cárdenas, Rector.

# Del **Rector**

# MASS INTENTIONS / INTENCIONES DE MISAS

~ Readings of the Week ~

# VIGIL MASS/VIGILIA: Saturday/Sábado, March 15

5:30 PM † Dora Gonzales (by Valerie Saenz and Lisa Martinez)

#### SUNDAY/DOMINGO, March 16

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 / Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14. / Philippians 3:17-4:1 / Luke 9:28b-36		
7:30 AM	† Lola Juarez (by Vicente Juarez)	
	† Joshua Gonzales (by Sandra Guerrero)	
9:00 AM(Sp)	† Rito, Bertha Escareno y Maria Zamora (por Eva)	
	Por la salud de Jeremiah Diaz (by Alicia Diaz)	
	Almas del Purgatorio	
11:00 AM	† Pablo O. Lara (by Suzanna L. Mejia)	
	† Mary Garcia (by Richard and Gerri Duran)	

† Lupe Gallegos (by Olivia Gallegos)

#### Monday/Lunes, March 17

Daniel 9:4b-10 / Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 / Luke 6:36-38

8:15 AM For peace among families

#### Tuesday/Martes, March 18

Isaiah 1:10, 16-20 / Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 / Matthew 23:1-12

8:15 AM For the youth in our parish

6:00 PM(Sp) Por la salud del Papa Francisco

#### Wednesday/Miércoles, March 19

2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 / Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 / Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22 / Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

8:15 AM For world peace

#### Thursday/Jueves, March 20

Jeremiah 17:5-10 / Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 / Luke 16:19-31

8:15 AM † John Montella (by Victoria Leach)
† Joshua Gonzales (by Sandra Guerrero)
6:00 PM(Sp) Por nuestros hermanos migrantes

#### Friday/Viernes, March 21

Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a / Psalm 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 / Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 8:15 AM For the health of Pope Francis

#### Saturday/Sabado, March 22

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20 / Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 / Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 8:15 AM Vocations to Priesthood



"Pray, Hope and Don't Worry! Worry is useless, God is merciful and will hear your prayer" ~Saint Padre Pio~

To add a name to the parish prayer list in the bulletin, simply call the IHM office at (575)523-2252 or email frontdesk@ihmcathedral.org

28055

If your loved one has recovered or found healing, please contact the office so that their name can be removed from the list. Thank you!

# WHAT IS HAPPENING



#### O.C.I.A.: Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

#### (Sacraments for Adults)

For **adults** who wish to learn more about their faith and/ or receive any sacrament of initiation: **baptism**, **holy first communion**, **confirmation**.

Classes will begin Tuesday May 6, 2025.

You will be confirmed into the program <u>after</u> a personal interview with the religious education director.

Please leave your name and phone number at the **IHM Office (575) 24-8563** so the DRE can return your call and schedule an interview.



 LENTEN FASTING

 Fasting on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday

 Ages: 18-59

ABSTINENCE (No Meat) Ages: 14+

On Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. **Am I excused from fasting and** 

#### abstinence:

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.





# Saint Patrick's Day **Celebration**

Games, Food, Music and More!



011Monday, March 17 (b:UUDM ev Tall





# COURT SANTA CRUZ #1298 COURT QUEEN OF HEAVEN

#### SUNDAYS 12:30 PM

ST. GENEVIEVE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 16 March 23

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

March 30 April 6 April 13

Human fertility is simply beautiful and worthy of being celebrated

A Workshop on Fertility Awareness
and Natural Family Planning

Lunch and workshop are free, but Reservations required by March 24, 2025. For questions or to RSVP, contact: Martha Beasley at 575/640-9076 or martha.t.beasley@gmail.com

Saturday, March 29, 2025 Where: Basilica of San Albino/Yannes Hall 2261 Calle de Guadalupe (Mesilla) Time: 11:30 a.m.: Registration and Sub Sandwich Lunch 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: The Workshop

# Pray for the Member of Our Parish Who Are Ill

Vickie Y Peter Alvarez **Jennette & Jessie Apocado Margie y Carlos Armendariz Stella Armenta Christina Arrieta** Mrs. Arvizu **Daniel J. Castillo** Alice & Carlos Castro Jessica D. Chavez **Bill & Raquel Chubb Joe Contreras Narciso Dominguez Rick & Gerry Duran Ed Fragoso y Mother Maria** 



Collections: 3-9-2025

1st Collection......\$4,618.00 2nd Collection......\$1,168.00 Mother Teresa.....\$820.00 Ash Wed.....\$4,175.00 Ash Wed 2nd .....\$274.00 Office.....\$2,577.00 Gift Shop.....\$891.99 Mail-ins.....\$2,128.00

**Manuel Granillo Daniel Jasso Isabel Juarez** Mary y Tony Gallegos **Jim Hirschy Phyllis Larkin Caesar Lopez Raymond Matlak Lupe Mirabel Deacon Ed Misquez** Mr. & Mrs. Montoya Msgr. Juan Moreno Lucy & Nacho Nuanez **Jackie Ontiveros** Virginia y Mike Ortega **Martha Rivera Julieta Rojas Rose Sedillo Daniel Tellez** Sally Torres **Ralph Trevizo Sadie Valverde** Mr. & Mrs. Zapta **Ceylon Mendenall** 

2nd Collections: Donations for Easter Flowers will be accepted though the month of March

Thank You for your great support! Enchilada Sale Youth Group......\$2,663.00 Guadalupanos....\$1247.00 ACTS.....\$2,126.00

Mass Intentions Weekday: \$10.00 • Weekend: \$15.00 • Prayer Request: Free \*\* Please request Mass Intentions at least 2 weeks in advance.\*\*

# <u>Saint Patrick, Bishop, Apostle of Ireland</u> Lived around 386 - 461 <mark>Feast Day: March 17<sup>th</sup></mark>

At the age of fifteen Patrick was kidnapped by Irish pirates who took him with them to the pagan land of Northern Ireland and sold him as a slave. He prayed unceasingly and his Catholic faith increased. Then, after six years of imprisonment, Patrick had in a dream,



and, obeying the vision, he escaped surveillance and traveled on foot the 125 miles that separated him from the coast. There, he was able to convince some sailors to sail him back to Britain. Once home, he studied hard and soon became a priest.

Impressed by his great faith, they wished to ordain Patrick a Bishop which he would only agree to if they allowed him to return to convert his captives in Ireland. Once ordained, Patrick then found himself faced with countless difficulties yet he persisted. He converted thousands of Irish and introduced the monastic life.

According to tradition, St. Patrick used to explain the mystery of the Trinity by showing the clover, in which three leaflets are joined at a single stem.





A la edad de quince años, Patrick fue secuestrado por

piratas irlandeses que lo llevaron con ellos a la tierra pagana de Irlanda del Norte y lo vendieron como esclavo. Oró incesantemente y su fe católica aumentó. Luego, después de seis años de prisión, Patrick tuvo un sueño y, obedeciendo la visión, escapó de la vigilancia y recorrió a pie las 125 millas que lo separaban de la costa. Allí, pudo convencer a algunos marineros para que lo llevaran de regreso a Gran Bretaña. Una vez en casa, estudió y se hizo sacerdote.

Impresionados por su gran fe, desearon ordenar obispo a Patricio, lo que él sólo aceptaría si le permitían regresar para convertir a sus cautivos en Irlanda. Una vez ordenado, Patrick se encontró frente a innumerables dificultades, pero persistió. Convirtió a miles de irlandeses e introdujo la vida monástica.

Según la tradición, San Patricio explicaba el misterio de la Trinidad mostrando el trébol, en el que tres foliolos están unidos en un solo tallo.

# From Russia to the Gemelli to pray for the Pope and for peace

Russian Catholics in Rome for the Jubilee have made a walking pilgrimage to Gemelli Hospital to pray for Pope Francis. By Salvatore Cernuzio

The 85 Russian pilgrims – most from Moscow, but also from parishes in St Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Vladimir, and other cities in northern Russia – had been planning their archdiocesan Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome for ages. Despite various difficulties, they arrived in the Eternal City, where on March 12 they had been scheduled to be received by Pope Francis.

That meeting, of course, was impossible due to the Pope's hospitalisation at the Gemelli Hospital. The Russian pilgrims, though, led by their Archbishop, Paolo Pezzi, the head of the Archdiocese of the Mother of God at Moscow, still wanted to be present with the Pope, and subsequently walked from Rome's Cornelia Metro station to the Gemelli Hospital, a journey of more than four kilometres. There, they gathered around the statue of St John Paul II to pray for the recovery of Jorge Mario Bergoglio – who the Moscow auxiliary Bishop Nikolaj Gennad'evič Dubinin described as "a great pope" in remarks to Vatican Media.

# A WALKING PILGRIMAGE

Together with Archbishop Pezzi, Bishop Dubinin, a conventual Franciscan, is accompanying the group of Russian pilgrims, comprised of a dozen priests, two nuns and numerous lay faithful.

"It is a diverse group, mostly Russians but also Poles, Belarusians, Germans, Armenians," the Bishop said. He explained, "It is not easy to organise a pilgrimage for Russian citizens at this time. We are therefore very grateful because various people and organisations have helped us to experience the Jubilee."

The pilgrimage which is taking place from 10 to 15 March, includes passing through the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica, praying the Stations of the Cross in the Vatican Gardens, and visiting the other Papal Basilicas.

Wednesday was dedicated entirely to Pope Francis. For about an hour, before the large statue of Pope John Paul II the group recited the Rosary in Russian and the Litany to Our Lady in Latin, in which they were joined by others gathered outside the hospital.

## SPIRITUAL CLOSENESS

"We had planned the meeting with the Holy Father, we know that the Pope also cared a lot," Bishop Dubinin said. "We understood that we could not see him physically, but we tried to meet him spiritually, to intensify our spiritual bonds with him. Each pilgrim experienced this moment intensely. The meeting with the Pope had been highly anticipated, but we felt very strongly the closeness with him."

Bishop Dubinin told Vatican Media that Pope Francis is much loved by the Russian faithful: "There is a strong bond, we know that he prays for our Church. We are grateful to him and try to live unity. We also remember the online meeting with our young people and various moments in which he expressed suffering, all evangelical, for a peace that is not there."

### INVOCATION OF PEACE

Along with prayers for Pope Francis' recovery, "peace" is the main theme of this trip to Rome by the faithful from Russia: "We keep [peace] in our hearts, because peace is what the Lord wants, and the lack of peace is a great suffering for everyone," the Bishop said, adding, "We are suffering from divisions, from hatred, from these situations of conflict."

Bishop Dubinin appealed for prayers, saying, "Let us pray to the Lord to give us that peace that we are not able to build on our own."

And he insisted, "It is not right to say that the world wants war... It is a part of the world that wants it and that claims to be 'the whole' world. Peace is a gift from God and those who believe want nothing but peace."

# Cuba completes release of prisoners following Vatican-mediated deal

Cuba grants early release to 553 prisoners following a deal mediated by the Holy See and completing an agreement struck in the final days of former U.S. President Joe Biden's days in office. By Linda Bordoni

In one of his final official acts, and in the wake of a Vatican-mediated deal with the Cuban government, Joe Biden on January 14 removed Cuba from a US terrorism blacklist in exchange for an agreement by the Cuban government to free 553 prisoners.

The United States, the European Union, the Catholic Church and rights groups have long pushed the island nation to release hundreds of protesters jailed following anti-government protests in July 2021, the

largest since Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution.

In a statement after the deal, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said, "As part of the close and fluid relations with the Vatican State, I informed Pope Francis of [the decision to free the prisoners] in the spirit of the 2025 Jubilee,"

The deal was overturned by the new US presidency just six days after Donald Trump was sworn in, but prisoners have continued to be sporadically released.

In February, the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, called the gradual release of the Cuban prisoners "a sign of great hope" at the start of the Holy Year, and he expressed hope for more "gestures of clemency" from governments in the spirit of the Jubilee.

Speaking late on Monday, the vice president of Cuba's top court said on state television that the process was successfully completed.

According to rights groups, opposition activists and a dissident leader are among those released. However, two dissident artists and a musician co-author of the anti-government protests anthem are still in jail. Observers claim that many of those released are not political prisoners.

According to official figures, around 500 demonstrators over the July 2021 protests have been sentenced, in some cases to up to 25 years in prison.

# The Catholic Relief Services Collection Strengthens Bishops' Mission to the Vulnerable at Home and Abroad

Each year the USCCB comforts and assists people worldwide who suffer from war, natural disasters, violent persecution or extreme poverty. That work is possible because of contributions to The Catholic Relief Services Collection which benefits six Church-related entities that all offer aid to the vulnerable in carrying out the Christ's mandate in Matthew's Gospel to care for the "least of these."

WASHINGTON – Each year the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) comforts and assists people worldwide who suffer from war, natural disasters, violent persecution or extreme poverty. That work is possible because of contributions to The Catholic Relief Services Collection. This year, many dioceses will take up this collection in their parishes at Masses on March 29-30.

The collection benefits six Church-related entities that all offer aid to the vulnerable in carrying out the Christ's mandate in Matthew's Gospel to care for the "least of these."

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provides disaster relief and economic development initiatives among the developing world's poorest people.

Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church at the USCCB helps the Church address the pastoral needs of U.S. Catholics across many cultural boundaries.

Secretariat of Justice and Peace at the USCCB engages in advocacy and outreach on behalf of the poor and works for peace.

Migration & Refugee Services at the USCCB welcomes and assists newcomers to the U.S., especially victims of war and persecution.

Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) provides legal aid to refugees and migrants, including immigrant Catholic clergy and religious sisters and brothers who need help navigating United States immigration law.

The Holy Father's Relief Fund enables the Pope to quickly assist victims of disaster.

"This year, The Catholic Relief Services Collection has a very urgent significance," said Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on National Collections. "Recently, the U.S. government abruptly suspended funding for its refugee resettlement program and then terminated cooperative agreements for such work, impacting thousands of refugees that the government has placed in the charge of the USCCB for resettlement assistance. And with similarly abrupt stop-work orders on foreign humanitarian relief work, aid organizations such as Catholic Relief Services are unable to sustain their work overseas, bringing food, lifesaving medicine, and daily necessities to people in need."

While federal funding has been essential for organizations such as the USCCB and CRS to succeed in the work to aid those in need, each year the Conference spends more to support refugees than it receives from federal grants. Because of the funding suspension, the USCCB and its local partner organizations have begun laying off dozens of employees and this has irreparably damaged the USCCB's partnerships with local groups and its ability to provide refugee assistance in the future. Donations to this year's

collection will be vital to the Catholic initiatives to reveal Christ's love to those in need.

In the past, The Catholic Relief Services Collection has brought religious sisters and priests to the United States, provided pastoral training for Catholic leaders who minister to Asian and Pacific Island communities in the United States, enabled families to rise above poverty, and funded steps toward ending a war. In 2023, the bishops distributed more than \$13 million among the six organizations affiliated with the collection. For information on the projects that were funded in 2023, please visit: https://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

#iGiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds for this collection.



#### NEXT STEPS: MARCHING ON THE NEW FRONTLINE OF POST-ROE AMERICA

New Mexico is building a \$10 million tax-funded abortion New Mexico is building a SU million tax-funded abortion mega-center in Las Cruces to target women from Texas and beyond with unrestricted abortion up to delivery! Join us at the midpoint of our 40 Days for Life campaign with over 650 cities around the world to discover the critical next steps to defend life at the regional level.

Mass with Bishop Baldacchino at Immaculate Heart of Mary 1240 S Espina St, Las Cruces, NM 8800

1:00 PM Pro-Life Rally & Prayer by UNM Build Site

REGISTER TODAY! BRING A BOX OF DIAPERS!

Building Site 4391 E. Lohman Ave, Las Cruces, NM 8801 2:00 PM

11:30 AM

380 (

2¥.

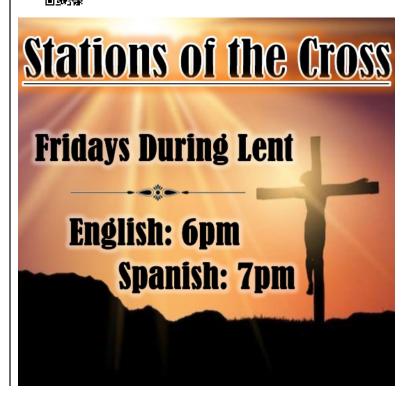
March Around Lohman Avenue The route will be 1.7 miles

Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces

40 Days for Life

MARK CAVALIER Southwest Coalition, Inc.

NM Sta





Grisell Gonzalez, Office Manager
 Victor Hernandez, Maintenance
 Salma Hernandez, Receptionist
 Jackelyne Ontiveros, Receptionist
 Wilman Oliveros, Custodian
 Ana Baltodano, PT Custodian