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They Meet Every Friday from 6pm-8pm Grades 7th to 12th are invited to attend!

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SHARE with all members of your Parish or school staff

October 26, 2025

1240 S. Espina, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001  
(575) 524-8563 Email: frontdesk@ihmcathedral.org Fax (575)523-2252

**CLERGY**

**Bishop:** Most Rev. Peter Baldacchino, J.C.L.  
**Rector:** Very Rev. Alejandro Reyes Cardenas  
**Deacons:** Deacon Ed Fierro  
Deacon Ruben Gutierrez

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday 8:30 - 4:30p.m.

*The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector*  
Luke 18:9-14

**30TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

**SCHEDULE OF LITURGIES/ MISAS**

**WEEKDAYS / FINES DE SEMANA**  
Saturday Vigil/Vigilia del sábado: 5:30p.m. (English)  
Sunday/domingo: 7:30 / 11:00a.m. (English)  
9:00a.m. (Español)

**WEEKDAYS / DIAS DE LA SEMANA**  
Monday-Saturday: 8:15a.m. (English)  
Tuesday / martes: 6:00p.m. (Español)  
Thursday / jueves: 6:00p.m. Hora Santa en (Español)  
Friday / viernes: 3:00p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (English)

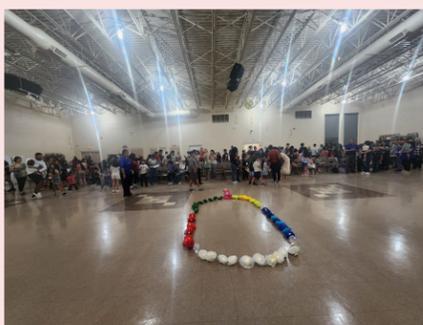
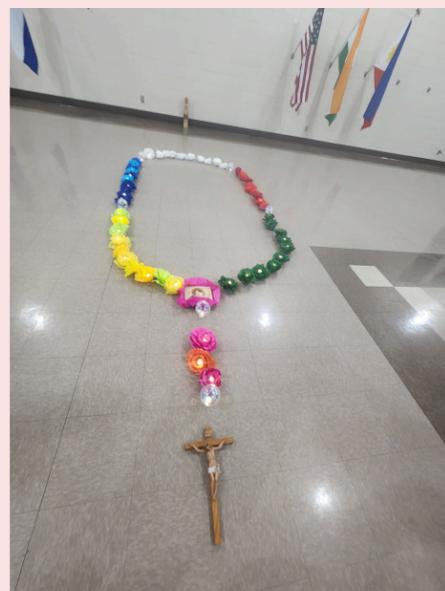
**Baptism / Bautizos:** Classes offered every third Saturday of the month. Call the Office to Register for Classes  
Spanish: 10:00-12:00p.m.  
English: 10:00-12:00p.m.  
**Marriage:** Call the office for more info. Six months for prep.  
**Anointing of the Sick:** Upon Request  
**Reconciliation:**  
Monday - Friday 7:00-8:00a.m.  
Saturday: 4:00p.m.



• Grisell Gonzalez, Office Manager • Sr. Gloria Gutierrez, Director of Religious Education • Lenisa Gutierrez, Carmen Trejo Receptionist • Wilman Oliveros, Custodian • Ana Baltodano, PT Custodian • Anthony Moreno, Maintenance

**Registration:** We welcome new parishioners, winter visitors and visiting friends to our parish. New members should register by completing a WELCOME envelope available at the church office. A registration form will be mailed to you. Once it is complete and returned to the church or office you will be registered. We encourage you to use your envelopes if you donation is a mothers one this help us to know that you are an active parishioner.

1. Dinner for priest Marriage encounter family. 10/20/2025
2. Praying the rosary CCD program for world peace and unity of the church.
3. Harvest in the back rectory of the Cathedral. By Fr. Alejandro



# BORDER MASS MISA FRONTERIZA

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Calling All Lectors – Share the Word of God!

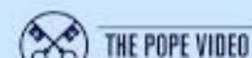
Do you enjoy reading and feel called to serve during Mass? We are looking for parishioners who would like to participate as lectors and help proclaim the Word of God during our liturgical celebrations.

If you have a clear speaking voice, a love for Scripture, and a heart for service, we invite you to consider joining our lector ministry.

Please contact the church office at (575) 524-8563

For collaboration between different religious traditions

OCTOBER 2025



## All Saints Day Festival



Friday October 31, 2025  
Finley Hall  
6 - 9pm



## Festival de Todos Los Santos



Viernes 31 de Octubre, 2025  
Finley Hall  
6 - 9pm

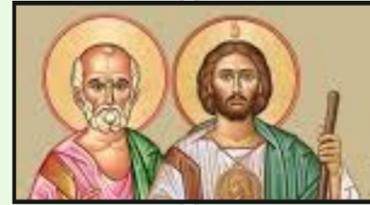


## Mes del Santo Rosario

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**Sts. Simon and Jude (Taddeo),  
Apostles**



St. Jude Thaddeus and St. Simon, two of the least known Apostles, are paradoxically among the closest to their Master, two of his cousins. At least, the tradition is quite certain of it as regards Jude Thaddeus, since it is clear from the Scriptures that his father, Alpheus, was the brother of St. Joseph, while his mother, Mary Cleophas, was a cousin of the Virgin. As for Simon, things are shrouded in fog.

Many faces, an Apostle

The Gospel names St. Simon as the tenth apostle, just before Jude Thaddeus. Many identify in Simon the homonymous cousin of Christ, brother of James the Younger. The Byzantines identify in him Nathanael of Cana and the canteen director at the wedding of Cana, while St. Fortunatus of Poitiers states that Simon and Jude Thaddeus were buried in Suanir, a city in Persia, where they suffered martyrdom. According to tradition, it is almost certainly in this part of the world that Simon, known as the Zealot or the Canaanite, as the evangelists Matthew and Mark call him, crossed paths with Jude Thaddeus, who would be his companion in mission until the end.

Jude, the faithful disciple

When the Eleven dispersed from Jerusalem to proclaim the Kingdom of God in other lands, Jude Thaddeus departed from Galilee and Samaria to go into Syria, Armenia and ancient Persia. In this area, authoritative sources claim, he met Simon, and their missionary partnership won tens of thousands of Babylonians and people from other cities for Christ. As always, the Gospel earned for itself both followers and enemies: for the two Apostles, the hour of supreme witness eventually arrived.

The courage to be called Christians

Arrested and taken to the Temple of the Sun, the sentence imposed on both was to worship the goddess Diana, and so to deny Christ. In refusing, it is said that Jude Thaddeus declared pagan idols false, and that at the same time two horrible demons came out of the temple, destroying him. Frightened, the people watching the scene are said to have pounced ferociously on the two Apostles, who are brutally killed. Their relics are kept in the Basilica of Saint Peter.

**ss. Simone y Judas (Tadeo),  
apóstoles**

Cuando se habla de los santos Simón y Judas Tadeo se entra en una dimensión íntima del Evangelio, en la que Jesús-Dios muestra su dimensión

de Jesús-hombre. Porque los santos Simón y Judas Tadeo son dos de los Apóstoles menos conocidos, cuando, paradójicamente, se cuentan entre los más próximos al Maestro, pues son dos de sus primos. La tradición es bastante cierta en el caso de Judas Tadeo, ya que de las Escrituras se deduce que su padre, Alfeo, era hermano de San José; mientras que su madre, María de Cleofás, era prima de la Virgen. Por lo que se refiere a Simón, no existen certezas.

Muchos rostros, un Apóstol

El Evangelio cita a Simón como el décimo Apóstol, precisamente delante de Judas Tadeo. Este es el único dato cierto. Muchos identifican a Simón con el homónimo primo de Cristo, hermano de Santiago el menor. Los bizantinos lo identificaron con Natanael de Caná, el mayordomo de las bodas de Caná.

San Fortunato de Poitiers afirma que Simón y Judas Tadeo fueron sepultados en Suanir, ciudad persa en la que padecieron el martirio. Según la tradición, es casi seguro que en esta zona del mundo Simón, llamado "el zelote" o "el cananeo" por los evangelistas Mateo y Marco, emprende el camino con su compañero de misión y de destino.

Judas, el discípulo fiel

Hubo dos Judas que siguieron a Jesús, de los cuales Tadeo es el menos conocido, al llamarse igual que el traidor. Cuando los Once salieron de Jerusalén para anunciar el Reino de Dios en otras tierras, Judas Tadeo pasó por Galilea y Samaria para dirigirse, con el paso de los años, a Siria, Armenia y la antigua Persia. En esta zona encontró a Simón. La predicación de ambos llevó al bautismo a miles de babilonios y de personas de otras ciudades.

Pero como siempre, el Evangelio suscita seguidores y enemigos, y a los dos Apóstoles les llegó la hora de ofrecer el supremo testimonio. Fueron arrestados y llevados ante el Templo del sol, donde se les ordenó dar culto a la diosa Diana, renegando a Cristo.

El valor de llamarse cristianos

Se narra que Judas Tadeo rechazó esta orden y declaró como falsos los ídolos paganos; y que en ese mismo instante, dos demonios horribles salieron del templo, destruyéndolo. La gente que asistía a la escena, asustada, se abalanzó con ferocidad sobre los dos apóstoles, que fueron asesinados brutalmente. Sus reliquias se custodian en la Basílica de San Pedro.

Del

Padre

From the

Paster

“Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else.” Luke 18:9-14

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Today’s Gospel presents us with a powerful parable; it is Jesus Himself offering us the opportunity to find ourselves in this story. The Gospel presents us with images of the repentant sinner or tax collector and the Pharisee or hypocritical man who thinks that he is not in need of conversion and is better than the other. This is pride, a serious capital sin very present in our times.

“Only the repentant heart that is humble, open to correction and trusts completely in God will be saved. Those whose hearts are proud, self-righteous and deaf to God’s voice and correction are doomed.” Pope Francis

Sometimes we believe that we are saved because we go to Mass, fast and pray, but our hearts are far from God and our neighbor. We become prideful, self-righteous and deaf to God’s voice because we don’t trust in His ways but in our own ways. And even worse, we don’t accept correction. Today’s parable addresses a serious situation that happens when we pray and think that we are heard because of our many words. But this is not sincerity of heart. Therefore, this is an invitation for us to be honest with ourselves and with others. We are sinners who have promised not to make the same mistakes—and then we fail again—and God, who has seen our desire to change, has been infinitely patient with us. “The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income’” Luke 18:11. This man spoke the prayer to himself, but he forgot that God sees everything, he compared himself with the other and even states the sins of the other because he probably forgot his own sins. It is a reminder for us that when we go to the sacrament of reconciliation or pray, we don’t confess the sins of others but our sins, otherwise we can make a sacrilegious confession.

“But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner’” Luke 18:13. This second one is an example of humility for us. We are represented by him in this story; we are but unprofitable servants and serious sinners in need of forgiveness. If we cannot see how we have offended God we are blind. If we cannot understand that God does not see the appearance but the heart, we are still very distant from our path to conversion. When we can tell the Lord, “Lord these are my sins, not the sins of that one or the other, these are mine. They are mine.” The Lord truly forgives us. I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former.

I pray to the Lord that he might help us to see our need for conversion and restore us in his grace so, like the great Saint Paul, we can continue to run the race. And I pray it is the same race towards heaven. Let us make sure as community of faith that no one is left behind.

It is true that the enemy, Satan, will try to tempt us and makes us believe that God does not care about the injustices of our times, but we need to be fit and courageous. Saint Paul is speaking from his path to Martyrdom, and he is an example of faith and humility and clothed with the spiritual armor of God. We are never alone; the good Lord who stood at the side of Saint Paul is close to the brokenhearted. He was convinced of this and reminds us again; we are never alone in this endeavor of the proclamation of the Gospel.

Please say this prayer from the bottom of your heart!

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever.”  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18.

Happy Sunday!

Sincerely,

Father Alejandro Reyes Cardenas, Rector

## El Papa: los nuevos santos, signos luminosos de esperanza y amor

Sebastián Sansón Ferrari - Ciudad del Vaticano

“Los obispos de Venezuela han publicado el pasado 7 de octubre una carta con motivo del gozoso acontecimiento de ver en los altares a dos hijos de su amada tierra: san José Gregorio Hernández y santa Carmen Rendiles, pidiendo al Señor que este sea un fuerte estímulo para que todos los venezolanos se congreguen y sepan reconocerse como hijos y hermanos de una misma Patria, reflexionando así sobre el presente y el futuro, a la luz de las virtudes que estos santos vivieron de manera heroica”.

Con estas palabras, que suscitaron fervorosos aplausos de los miles de venezolanos presentes en el Aula Pablo VI, el Papa León XIV se dirigió a los fieles reunidos para la canonización de los mártires Peter To Rot y el obispo Ignatius Choukrallah Maloyan, de las religiosas Maria Troncatti, Vincenza Maria Poloni y Carmen Rendiles Martínez, así como de los laicos Bartolo Longo y José Gregorio Hernández Cisneros. En una audiencia que les concedió este lunes 20 de octubre, el Pontífice extrajo de cada uno de ellos un mensaje válido para nuestros días, especialmente ante las injusticias sociales.

“Cabría preguntarse, ¿cuáles son esas virtudes que deben motivarnos? Ciertamente la fe”, dijo el Pontífice en un discurso que alternó el español, el inglés y el italiano. “Dios estaba presente en sus vidas y las transformaba, haciendo de la sencilla existencia de una persona normal, como cualquiera de nosotros, una lámpara que en lo cotidiano iluminaba a todos con una luz nueva”.

“Sin duda —añadió—, también la virtud de la esperanza: si Dios es nuestra recompensa eterna, nuestros trabajos y nuestras luchas no pueden finalizarse en metas que además de indignas y degradantes, son efímeras. Finalmente, la caridad, que nace de acoger y compartir el don recibido; que nos hace encontrar el verdadero sentido de una vida y nos pide que la construyamos por medio del servicio, sea a los enfermos, a los pobres, a los más pequeños”.

El Santo Padre invitó a reflexionar sobre cómo estas virtudes pueden ayudarnos en el momento actual, y aclaró: “Puede hacerlo si al mirar a estas dos grandes figuras, vemos en ellas sobre todo a personas muy semejantes a nosotros, que vivieron enfrentando problemáticas que no nos son extrañas, y que nosotros mismos podemos afrontar como ellos lo hicieron, siguiendo su ejemplo”.

“Por otro lado —sugirió el Obispo de Roma—, asumiendo que quien vive a mi lado —como yo, como ellos— está llamado a la misma santidad, y por ello debo verlo, ante todo, como un hermano al que respetar y al que amar, compartiendo el camino de la existencia, sosteniéndonos en las dificultades y construyendo juntos el reino de Dios con alegría”.

“Un pastor según el corazón de Cristo”: así describió León XIV al obispo mártir armenio Ignacio Choukrallah Maloyan. Un pastor que defendió a su rebaño, que no renegó de su fe a cambio de la libertad y que murió como mártir por Dios.

### Defender las verdades de la fe

“Un simple catequista” con “un coraje extraordinario”, capaz de proclamar la verdad incluso en el escondimiento. Así es san Pedro To Rot, ejemplo —afirmó el Papa— de la profunda fe del pueblo de Nueva Guinea, que desafió a las fuerzas de ocupación durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, especialmente cuando estas permitieron la poligamia. Un hombre que se confiaba por completo a Dios en la oración.

“Que el ejemplo de san Peter To Rot nos anime a defender las verdades de la fe, aun a costa de sacrificios personales, y a confiar siempre en Dios en medio de nuestras pruebas”.

### En el servicio a los más frágiles florece la santidad

Ejemplos de caridad y dedicación al prójimo son las historias de la santa salesiana sor María Troncatti —que consagró su vida a los pueblos indígenas del Ecuador con competencia médica— y de sor María Poloni, fundadora de las Hermanas de la Misericordia, movida por el amor hacia los enfermos y los marginados. Para el Papa, sor Troncatti es “ejemplo de una caridad que no se rinde ante las dificultades, sino que las transforma en ocasiones para una entrega gratuita y total de sí misma”. Sor Poloni, que alimentó su compromiso social con una profunda espiritualidad mariana, enseña “a perseverar en el servicio cotidiano a los más frágiles”, subraya León XIV. Y “¡es precisamente ahí donde florece la santidad de vida!”.

### El apóstol del Rosario

Por último, al hablar de Bartolo Longo, el Sucesor de Pedro recordó su conversión: de hombre alejado de Dios a una vida llena de obras de misericordia y sostenida por el amor a María. Invita además al Santuario de Pompeya, del cual Longo fue fundador, a custodiar y difundir el fervor de este “apóstol del Rosario”.

“De corazón recomiendo esta oración a todos: a los sacerdotes, a los religiosos, a las familias, a los jóvenes. Contemplando los misterios de Cristo con la mirada de María, asimilamos día a día el Evangelio y aprendemos a ponerlo en práctica”. Al despedir a los peregrinos, el Santo Padre les deseó regresar a sus países con el corazón lleno de gratitud y con el ardiente deseo de imitar a los nuevos santos.



**U.S. Bishops' Fall Plenary Assembly to Meet November 10-13**



WASHINGTON - The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will gather for the 2025 Fall Plenary Assembly, November 10-13. Public sessions of the plenary on November 11 and 12 will be livestreamed. Throughout the meeting, the bishops will have opportunities to spend time in prayer and fraternal dialogue with one another.

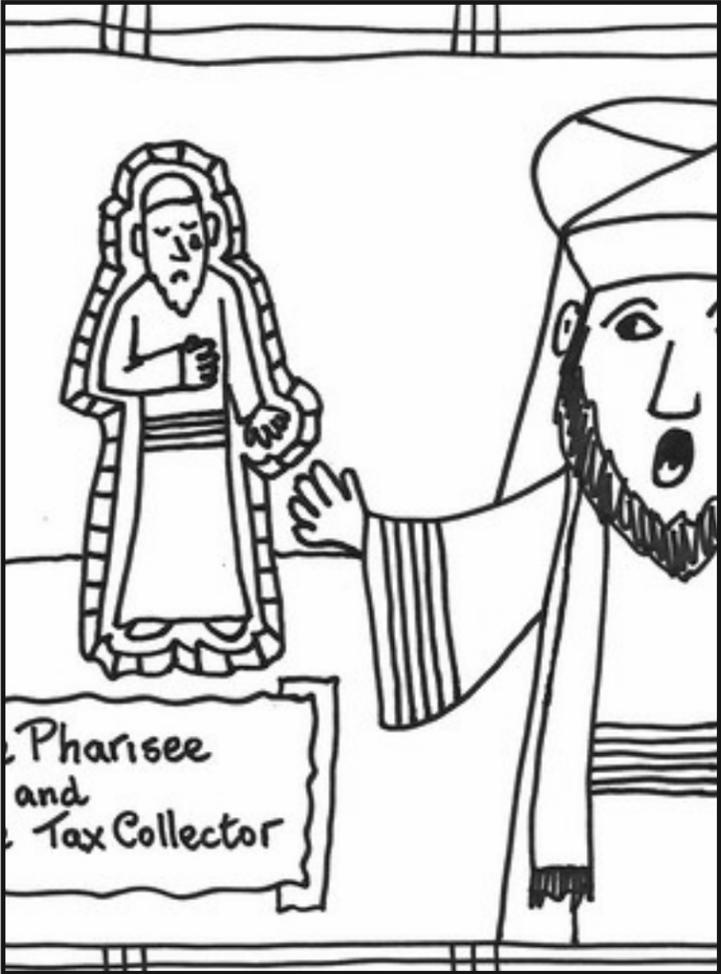
The plenary will begin with Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and president of the USCCB, delivering his final address to the bishops as USCCB president. He will complete his three-year term as Conference president at the conclusion of the plenary assembly. His address will be followed by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the papal nuncio to the United States. Among one of the first items of business for the bishops during the plenary will be a vote for the new president and vice president of the Conference. The terms for the new USCCB president and vice president will take effect at the conclusion of this year's plenary on November 13. The bishops will also elect chairmen of six USCCB committees. The bishops elected as committee chairmen typically serve for one year as chairman-elect before beginning a three-year term at the conclusion of the 2026 Fall Plenary Assembly.

The plenary agenda is not final and is therefore subject to change. Executive sessions will not be livestreamed but are expected to include fraternal dialogues and informational sessions on a variety of topics. While these discussions are private, topics will include the ongoing implementation of the synod and fraternal dialogues (an opportunity for the bishops to freely and candidly discuss important matters in a synodal manner) around best practices to continue the instruction of Laudato si', and the apostolate of the laity.

The public session schedule includes:

- Discussion and response to the evolving situation impacting migrants and refugees.
- A vote to consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 12, 2026, as part of the celebration of the American Semiquincentennial.
- An update from the Subcommittee on the Catechism on the Catechetical Accompaniment Process.
- A vote on the USCCB's 2026 budget.
- A report from the National Eucharistic Revival initiative, followed by a vote to approve the Summer of 2029 for the next National Eucharistic Congress.
- Discussion and vote on a revised text of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.
- Discussion and votes on two action items pertaining to liturgical texts from the Committee on Divine Worship.

The bishops will also receive updates on The Catholic University of America, and The Pontifical Mission Societies USA. Underscoring the importance that the U.S. bishops place on understanding artificial intelligence, the ethical implications of AI, its growing impact on society, and the opportunities and challenges it presents to the life of the Church, a presentation will be held in public session.



**Pray for the Members of Our Parish**

**Who Are Ill**

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mary y Tony Gallegos   | Jennette & Jessie     |
| Phyllis Larkin         | Margie y Carlos       |
| Caesar Lopez           | Armendariz            |
| Raymond Matlak         | Stella Armenta        |
| Lupe Mirabel           | Christina Arrieta     |
| Deacon Ed Misquez      | Mrs. Arvizu           |
| Mr. & Mrs. Montoya     | Daniel J. Castillo    |
| Msgr. Juan Moreno      | Alice & Carlos Castro |
| Lucy & Nacho           | Alice Romero          |
| Jackie Ontiveros       | Bill & Raquel Chubb   |
| Virginia y Mike Ortega | Joe Contreras         |
| Martha Rivera          | Narciso Dominguez     |
| Julieta Rojas          | Rick & Gerry Duran    |
| Rose Sedillo           | Harry A. Lujan        |
| Daniel Telles          | Alice Lujan           |
| Sally Torres           | Elizah & Zurayah      |
| Ralph Trevizo          | Benavidez family      |
| Silvia Briseno         | Marvin Dubbin         |
| Mr. & Mrs. Zapta       | Olivia Marshall       |
| Ceylon Mendenall       | Pearl Whitcomb        |
| Jamed Adaime           | Valito Sanchez        |
| Jose Luis Moncada      | Pearl L. Whitcomb     |
| Ignacio Romero         | victor Arguello       |
| Josephine Chavez       | Ed Frago              |
| Deoson                 | Linda Monroe          |
| Luke Simmons           | Lupe Saiz             |
| Beverly Zubia          |                       |
| Dr. David Valenzuela   |                       |

**Parish Ministries**

- Adults Confirmation
- Altar servers
- Alter Society
- Baptism Catechists
- Bereavement
- Eucharistic Adoration Holy hour
- Extraordinary Minister of the holy Hour
- Extraordinary Minister of the holy Hour to homebound
- Fisher of men - Vocational formation
- Financial committee
- Flor del Carmelo - Carmelitas Seglares
- Knight of Columbus
- Lectors
- Los Hombres de Valor
- MDS Marriages Group
- MFCC
- Mother Teresa of Calcutta
- Mujeres a los pies de Jesus-Fe, Servicio y formación
- OCIA Core Team (catechists)
- Pastoral council
- Pascuales
- Religious Education:
- Rosary Makers
- Sacristan
- Sacred Heart Society
- St. Joselito Youth Group
- Talleres de Oración y Vida
- Talitha Kum - Overcoming addiction w/ Personal support
- Ushers
- Wedding Sacristan/Server

If you wish to be involved in one of our ministries, call our office (575) 524-8563



**“Escuchar es construir la paz”: jóvenes del “Bel Espoir” narran su travesía**

“Escuchar es construir la paz”: jóvenes del “Bel Espoir” narran su travesía. Durante ocho meses, 200 jóvenes de distintas religiones y nacionalidades navegan juntos en el velero “Bel Espoir”, una escuela de fraternidad que recorre el Mediterráneo como un puente. En cada etapa, descubren que la paz se aprende con los oídos, con el corazón y con las manos.

*United in Ministry*

**Money Collection**

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection .....	\$4,593.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection .....	\$1,368.00
Office.....	\$2,996.84
Gift shop .....	\$514.00





# What is happening

- Border Mass Misa Fronteriza  
November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 10:00am  
1 de Noviembre del 2025
- All saints Day Festival  
at Finley Hall  
October 31, 2025 6pm-9pm
- Festival de todos Los Santos  
en Finely Hall  
31 de octubre 2025 6pm-9pm



**Baptism sign up**  
**Registraziones de Bautizo**

If you are a new parents or parent and plan to have your baby baptized at Immaculate Heart of Mary, we invite you.

Si usted es un nuevo padre o madre y planea bautizar a su bebé en el Inmaculado Corazón de María, lo invitamos.

**Classes** offered every third Saturday of the month.  
**Clases** se ofrecen cada tercer sábado del mes.

September / septiembre, 20,2025  
October / octubre 18, 2025  
November / noviembre 15,2025

Spanish: 10:00-12:00p.m.  
English: 10:00-12:00p.m.

**Dias de los Bautizos (domingo)**  
7 de septiembre del 2025  
5 de octubre del 2025  
5 de noviembre del 2025

**Day's of Baptism English (Sunday)**  
September 21, 2025  
October 26, 2025  
November 26, 2025

Call the Office to Register for Classes and register to baptized. For more information call the office  
Llamen a la oficina para registrar para las clases, o para Bautizar. Para mas informacion llame a la oficina

## MASS INTENTIONS



**Vigil / vigilia Saturday / sábado October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30p.m.** † William Gonzalez (by Gonzalez Family)

**Sunday / domingo October 26<sup>th</sup>**

**7: 30a.m.** †Anhanette Marquez Alejandrez (by Family)  
†Jesus Angela Ayala (by Erlinda Moreno)  
†Mercedes Flores (by Teo Rodriguez)

**9:00a.m.** †Mario Garibay Martinez (por familia)  
(Sp) †Roberto Rosales (por Familia)  
Anniversary of Stan Bernal & Laura (por Annette Davis)  
por el Cumpleaños de Fr. Alejandro

**11:00a.m.** †Richard & Ramona Montoya (by Mary Helen Sedillo)  
†Celedon & Elena Chavez (by Mary Helen Sedillo)  
Healing of Margaret Marrufo (by Family)  
For Fr. Alejandro Birthday  
Intercession for St. Michael Archangel in our Diocese  
(by Elodia)

**Monday / lunes October 27<sup>th</sup>**

**8: 15a.m.** †Alec Ramer Cordova (by Mary Reales)  
Health of Wilman Oliveros  
Intercession for St. Michael Archangel in our Diocese  
(by Elodia)

**Tuesday / martes October 28<sup>th</sup>**

**8:15a.m.** †Padre Ignacio Larrañaga (Josefina Vargas)  
Intercession for St. Michael Archangel in our Diocese  
(by Elodia)

**6:00p.m.** Almas del Purgatorio  
(Sp)

**Wednesday / miércoles October 29<sup>th</sup>**

**8:15a.m.** † Maryre & Donald McClanahan (by Mary Helen Sedillo)  
Intercession for St. Michael Archangel in our Diocese  
(by Elodia)

**Thursday / jueves October 30<sup>th</sup>**

**8:15a.m.** Intercession for St. Michael Archangel in our Diocese  
(by Elodia)

**Friday / viernes October 31<sup>st</sup>**

**8:15a.m.** †Mary Parra (by Family)  
†Keian Padilla (by Family)  
Intercession for St. Michael Archangel in our Diocese  
(by Elodia)

**Saturday / sábado November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**8:15a.m.** † Ernest C. Rosales (by Daughter)  
† Baby Montoya Sedillo (Mary Helen Sedillo)  
Intercession for St. Michael Archangel in our Diocese  
(by Elodia)

## “Escuchar es construir la paz”: jóvenes del “Bel Espoir” narran su travesía



Aid to the Church in Need's 2025 report on religious freedom around the world points out how persecution is on the rise as almost 5.4 billion people live in countries with serious violations of religious freedom.

By Kielce Gussie  
Aid to the Church in Need has released the 2025 edition of its Religious Freedom in the World Report, bringing to light the situation of ongoing discrimination and persecution around the globe. Looking at 196 countries, this report—covering the period of 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024—stressed Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion”.

In a conference at the Patristic Institute Augustinianum, members of Aid to the Church in Need reflected on the figures and information gathered since the last report, two years ago, regarding countries facing persecution and discrimination.

**Persecution is on the rise**  
According to Cardinal Pietro Parolin, who gave the keynote address, this year’s report is the largest since ACN began publishing them in 1999, showing that the trend of religious persecution continues to rise. The report warns that 64.7% of the world’s population – almost 5.4 billion – live in countries with “serious or very serious violations of religious freedom”.

ACN breaks down the various countries in three different categories: persecution, discrimination, and under observation (countries where there is not yet persecution or discrimination but that should be monitored). Marta Petrosillo, the editor-in-chief of the 2025 report, explained how 24 countries suffer persecution and 38 face discrimination based on religion. She also highlighted that in a number of nations, religious freedom is not guaranteed by law and others have laws where everyone is equal on paper but not in practice. What makes the ACN report unique is that it takes on a deliberately universal approach, looking not only at Christian religions, but all. Petrosillo highlighted how this report is the only one in the world that is not tied to a government. Neither is it limited to a small number of countries, which allows the report to actually have a universal, global perspective.

**Freedom of religion is essential**  
Executive President of ACN International Regina Lynch reflected on Pope Leo XIV’s words in an audience with members of the organization on 10 October: “Religious freedom, therefore, is not merely a legal right or a privilege granted to us by governments. It is a foundational condition that makes authentic reconciliation possible.”

Lynch furthered this stating that “the right to live according to one’s conscience is the heartbeat of human dignity.” She stressed that where it is respected, peace and justice flourish. But where it is denied, the human spirit and society lose their very foundations.

**It takes different forms**  
During the conference, Petrosillo pointed out the different causes of religious persecution that varies from country to country: authoritarian governments, extremism, ethno-religious nationalism, organized crime, and hybrid persecution and legalized intolerance. Moreover, religious persecution can be seen as a result of war, even if the war is not religious. She gave Ukraine, Gaza, and Syria as examples.

In the digital age, persecution and discrimination can also be found online. Believers are tracked, censored, and even arrested for their online activity. Petrosillo argued that “authoritarian regimes and extremist groups weaponize technology to silence dissent and target minorities.”

**A petition for change**  
Closing the morning session of the presentation of the report, Lynch invited everyone to join ACN in signing their first-ever global petition. It calls for concrete action to be taken in the form of laws to defend people's right to religious freedom. The petition will be available to sign until November 2026 when it will be formally presented to the United Nations, European Union, representatives of democratic governments and the diplomatic community encouraging them to join the movement.