SAN JUAN — The Catholic Church in its 2,000 years of existence has at times had to postpone the public celebration of religious events and services, as war or pestilence raged.

“The Church has rarely suspended Masses, but in its history she has done so for a variety of reasons,” Bishop Daniel E. Flores said.

This is one of those rare times for the Diocese of Brownsville and many parishes across the country. The outbreak of the coronavirus has led to many churches in the United States suspending public religious services. For the Diocese of Brownsville, Bishop Flores announced on March 18 a directive to suspend the public celebrations of Masses.

The bishop’s order also means other public events such as festivals, retreat programs and religious education programs are suspended until further notice. The directive took effect on March 19.

“These severe measures are taken with great sorrow, but they are necessary in my judgment for the sake of protecting lives,” Bishop Flores said. “We have not currently been hit as hard as the far Northwest or the East Coast, but we will...”

Public Masses canceled due to Covid-19 threats

Faithful can now watch TV or go online for livestream Mass

By R. DANIEL CAVAZOS
The Valley Catholic

SAN JUAN — After Bishop Daniel E. Flores reluctantly ordered churches in the Diocese of Brownsville closed to the faithful because of the coronavirus threat on March 18, he celebrated the last Mass with live attendance the next day at 11:30 a.m. at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine. Until further notice, priests will celebrate Masses in empty churches, although several Masses will be livestreamed online.

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Serving More Than A Million Catholics in the Diocese of Brownsville
April 2020

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Columnas del Mons. Juan Nicolau y Lydia Pesina y la serie mensual de la Fe en el Valle: Una historia ilustrada de la Diócesis de Brownsville

For video and more photos
Visit the Diocese of Brownsville on its social media pages.
El obispo suspende misas, anima a los fieles a orar

A los fieles de la Diócesis de Brownsville:

Después de consultar con el gobierno local y los funcionarios de salud, el Consejo Presbiteral de la Diócesis, con Mons. Eugenio Lira, obispo de Matamoros, y con muchos consejos católicos, y después de leer las directivas del Consejo de Dios todopoderoso y la Santísima Virgen María, Madre de Dios, he determinado lo siguiente.

La celebración pública de las Misas dominicales y las Misas entre semana en la diócesis de Brownsville se suspende a partir del mediodía del jueves 19 de marzo de 2020, solemnidad del Bendito José, patrono de la Iglesia Universal. Esta directiva permanece vigente hasta que sea retirada por el obispo o por el arzobispo de la diócesis.

Como recordatorio, y como señal en mi carta del 13 de marzo, todos los fieles están exentos de la obligación de asistir a la Misa los domingos y días festivos hasta nuevo aviso. Nuestro sitio diocesano incluirá enlaces actualizados a las Missas transmitidas en vivo por Internet, junto con otros recursos para la oración en casa.

Estas medidas se toman para prevenir la propagación del coronavirus en nuestras comunidades locales. Es esencial evitar movimientos y viajes innecesarios dentro de la comunidad siempre que sea posible. El virus se puede transmitir a los lugares visitados por las personas infectadas, incluso si no son conscientes de su infección. También es esencial evitar reuniones incluso en grupos pequeños siempre que sea posible, ya que el contacto directo también puede propagar el virus.

En este momento, nuestras iglesias no estarán abiertas al público. Esta medida servirá para prevenir la dispersión de este virus. Esto significa que nuestra parroquia al atrio de la iglesia y se mantendrá cerrada a todos los fieles, con excepción de aquellos que tomen la participación en el culto, especialmente aquellos que desean recibir el Sacramento de la Anunciación de Cristo.

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The V alley Catholic

DIOCESE

be if we don't find some way to act and take protective actions. “

He emphasized that the Church will not stop its ministry. Priests in the Diocese will continue to celebrate Mass daily and on Sundays, although it will be done without parishioners in attendance. But the mystery of the Mass and the sacrifice of Christ will continue to be celebrated in churches in all the communities of the diocese.

“I think it’s a time for Catholics to appreciate what a gift the Eucharist is,” Bishop Flores said. “We should pray for one another that we may live the charity it signifies.”

A priority during the suspension of public services will be assisting the elderly and the most vulnerable during difficult times. It is a way, the bishop said, to live the Eucharist in being of service to those most in need and staying connected to the church. It is important to do so when parishioners will not have access to their churches.

“It’ll be a great lack people will experience, and I’m very aware of that,” Bishop Flores said. “Many will weep because they can’t go to Mass.”

The diocese and many of its churches will live-stream Mass celebrations via Facebook and social media, the bishop said. Services from the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine will also be live-streamed, including Holy Week, if need be, he said.

Funerals, confessions and the anointing of the sick will continue, the bishop said. There will be conditions to having those services, he said, with more detail to come on those matters.

“It’s the way we take care of people,” Bishop Flores said of those services. “I’m asking people to be patient and helpful to one another.”

The suspension of public Masses is sure to leave a negative financial impact on the diocese as those services are a time when parishioners give to their church. Bishop Flores said that aspect of suspending public Masses is a concern, but “it’s not my biggest concern,” he said, pointing out the losses to be experienced by families with job losses and the sacrifices to be borne in individual households as a result.

“The Church will suffer like everyone else,” Bishop Flores said. “We’ll find a way.”

Priests in the individual parishes will have their own challenges in continuing to serve their parishioners during a time they are not allowed access to their churches. In San Pedro, west of Brownsville on the Military Highway, Father Joel Flores said his greatest concern is for older people who cannot leave their homes for fear of contracting the virus. Father Flores said his parish will use food pantry stores to make sure the elderly do not go without necessities.

He also plans to take his Capilla Móvil out to the neighborhoods of his parish so people can hear his voice and see the presence of the Lord where they live.

“The chapel will be driven through neighborhoods and an assistant will be ringing the bell while I process with the Blessed Sacrament,” Father Flores said. “It’s a way of taking the parish to Galilee to see the Lord walk through their homes.

“It’s the closest to celebrating public Mass that we can get,” he said. “It keeps the people safe and reminds them they are loved.”

The plight associated with coronavirus will eventually pass. When it does, the Church will be there for the faithful, just as it has long been and will continue to be.

“We will have Mass again in our churches,” Bishop Flores said. “The people will rejoice. This is a gift never to taken for granted.”

March 19 was a bittersweet day in the Diocese of Brownsville as the coronavirus threat brought on the final Masses that the faithful will be able to attend until further notice. Father Michael Arenes, rector of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Brownsville, celebrated the last Mass there Thursday morning, while Bishop Daniel E. Flores, accompanied by Auxiliary Bishop Mark A. Añest and Rector Father Jorge Gomez, celebrated 11:30 a.m. Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine. Since March 19, Masses are being celebrated without attendance, and the faithful can go to Somos El Valle 5.2, Cable Channel 1490 or online to the Diocese of Brownsville website or Facebook page in order to view them.

Last Mass continued from pg. 1

Cathedral photos: Miguel Roberts. Basilica photos: Paul Binz / The Valley Catholic

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Everything belongs to God

God created us out of the great love that He has for us. We are made in the image of God He created us out of the great love that He is. Genesis 1:26-28: Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them.

Then God deems that man shall rule over the fish, birds, cattle, and earth, making us guardians of his creation. He is Creator and we are his creation, his creatures called to guard and protect his handiwork.

The earth, our lives, our children and family, our talents and jobs, our homes, resources and money, our time all belong to God. Our home, food, and money belong to God. The earth belongs to God. As families, we can work at protecting the earth’s environment in small or big ways. Even little things such as recycling cans, bottles, paper and cardboard and conserving water and energy or using reusable shopping bags help take care of the earth.

Our talents and jobs belong to God. What ever gifts God has given us are for his greater honor and glory. I admire music ministers because they share their talents and help us to worship God at Mass. Whatever type of job we have is a gift from God that allows us to feed, clothe, and provide a home for our family.

As we worry about our loved ones, about our talents and jobs, our homes, resources and money today, we have a reason to be excited and grateful for what we have and what we are. As we consider what is required are “guestimations.” Naturally, we have to experiment and change. Naturally, we have to experiment and change. Experimentation and change. Naturally, we have to experiment and change. Experimentation and change.

In January, I started an improv quilt with no step-by-step directions to follow. I had a say in the colors and fabric selection, but there was no pattern indicating how to stitch them together. I was pointing out what the final quilt should look like. No block is the same. The choices I made along the way determined the outcome. Improv calls for trial and error, experimentation and change. Naturally, we have to plan and draw inspiration from where we find it, but there are no roadmap to follow, sometimes what is required are “guestimations.”

Nicholas Ball in InspiringImprove notes, “What may be perceived as an obstacle can, in improv, be an opportunity for creative expression.”

The unknowns we face in these uncertain times may inspire us to look at what we are doing and can do in new and different ways. We are let open the possibilities that lie ahead, to the possibilities the Lord is guiding us towards.

So as we “row together, each of us in need of comforting the other,” I look forward to what will come, of what our improv quilt will look like.

In many ways, we are all adopted sons and daughters of God. Ephesians 1:3-6: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.”

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So as we “row together, each of us in need of comforting the other,” I look forward to what will come, of what our improv quilt will look like.
I n a recent essay in the Wall Street Journal, Kim- merly Cutter chronicled the death of her father by suicide during her college years. With rapidly progressing prostate cancer, he lost more than 30 pounds, be- coming gaunt and emaciated. Back pain and nausea forced him to spend much of his time in bed. A few days before Christmas, he shared with Kimberly that he was thinking about shooting him- self. Kimberly argued with him, stressing that she and her sisters couldn’t accept a violent ending. “If he shot himself, my father would die alone. Someone in our family would have to find him,” she wrote. His daughters convinced him to look into other options. When he started investigating lethal drugs he ran into questions of reliability. He encountered horror stories about “wrong dosages and unreliable results.” Not wanting to use poisons, he turned to firearms. Perhaps he would not forget his sisters and me in his lowest moments and do what his darkest impulses urged. I had toyed with the idea. It was childishly simple. Corry, really. I would start sending him daily love notes. I sent the first email the next morning. The subject line read: “Reasons Why I Love You.” As I wrote, I knew I was onto something. For the next 99 days, I continued sending my father a different reason why I loved him each morning. They ranged from the tangible to the intangible: the memories of snorkeling with him through a school of angelfish in Jupiter, to his incomparable Daffy Duck imitation: “Suffering Succפעל.” I could tell the email had peaked my father’s interest. I could hear it in his father’s voice when I spoke to him on the phone; could feel it in the grateful emails he sent back in response. The reaction was not enough of a reason on its own for sending it to him seemed to restore him in some essential way… My father never again discussed with me his plans for how or when he would die.

Kimberly's hundred love letters embodied her dad to live out his life more fully and resist his fears for much longer than he would otherwise. Tragically, however, they did not stop his suicide. He ended up purchasing lethal barbiturates from a company in China, and, in late in his illness, consumed the fatal powder. His death left painful contradictions, as suicide always does. He had acceded to his daughters’ requests to avoid shooting himself, using drugs rather than a bullet, but he still died alone, discovered by a stunned family member. And while his suicide was not just as death by overdose can feel just as violent as death by gunfire. The underly- ing reality of pills, poisons or stills involves a brutal devastation of our physiology. Our bodies often resist, with the vomiting of pills, convulsions, and her sisters may have preferred that their dad succumb to toxins. We do so out of charity for others. We are all trying to understand that our bishops in the country are sending it to him seemed to restore him in some way.

We do so out of charity for others. We are all searching for more ways, how much and why they’re loved.

We are certainly living in trying times. I am sure that many of you are finding your way through this time of “shelter in place” or “quarantine” simply because we are living in the time of the Lord’s Resurrection. They hid in fear, for they didn’t know what to expect. Even though we may not understand that not gathering in large groups will actually save lives, we do so out of charity for others. We are all trying to understand that our bishops in the country are sending it to him seemed to restore him in some way.

They felt a sense of violence, pain, and fear, and to strengthen us in adversity. While the hundred letters did not ultimately dis- suade him from taking his own life, I hope that he could conclude that instead of eliminating the suffer- ing, we should eliminate the sufferer. Kimberly may well have been aware of these in- consistencies as she embarked on the project of sending a hundred love letters. I would like to re- help him understand that he was treasured and still a source of blessing to others in spite of his painful trials. Each of our priests, our bishops, our deacons speaks vol- umes about the singular power of love to overcome fear, and to strengthen us in adversity. For the Lord’s Resurrection. They hid in fear, for they didn’t know what to expect. Even though we may not understand that not gathering in large groups will actually save lives, we do so out of charity for others. We are all trying to understand that our bishops in the country are sending it to him seemed to restore him in some way.

Many have mentioned this has been an unfor- gettable Lent, a true desert experience a time for great sorrow for all of us who have been doing their best with their decisions for the good of the people of God, and we accept their guidance in obedience. It is a contradiction of the theology of the Incarnation not being able to come together in any type of faith gathering? After all, God came from heaven to earth. As he struggled with rapidly progressing prostate cancer, he lost more than 30 pounds, be- coming gaunt and emaciated. Back pain and nausea forced him to spend much of his time in bed. A few days before Christmas, he shared with Kimberly that he was thinking about shooting him- self. Kimberly argued with him, stressing that she and her sisters couldn’t accept a violent ending. “If he shot himself, my father would die alone. Someone in our family would have to find him,” she wrote. His daughters convinced him to look into other options. When he started investigating lethal drugs he ran into questions of reliability. He encountered horror stories about “wrong dosages and unreliable results.” Not wanting to use poisons, he turned to firearms. Perhaps he would not forget his sisters and me in his lowest moments and do what his darkest impulses urged. I had toyed with the idea. It was childishly simple. Corry, really. I would start sending him daily love notes. I sent the first email the next morning. The subject line read: “Reasons Why I Love You.” As I wrote, I knew I was onto something.

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How do you witness your faith in the world today?

Living Our Faith

Vivo mi fe primero que nada en oración buscando al Señor durante la semana asistiendo a misa. Formo parte de un grupo Apostolico Carismático donde el fruto es la vida comunitaria, sirviendo a la Iglesia pero teniendo el compromiso de ortanodos los días, leer las escrituras en casa, tener reunión con los hermanos para profundizar en la fe y reunirnos en la Santa Eucaristía. También sirvo al Señor en el movimiento “Mision Catolica Universitaria de Jovenes” donde apoyo a los jóvenes en su camino y vida de fe.

Carlos Salinas
Volunteer
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, Mission

Myrna Mendez
Volunteer
St. Joseph the Worker Church, McAllen

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https://www.esonlinegiving.com/432

Catechism Pop Quiz

149. Which of the following statements is/are false (687):

a. The Spirit speaks of himself when it reveals God’s Word.
b. We only know the Spirit by his movement by which he reveals the Word to us.
c. All who believe in Jesus know the Spirit.

d. The Church’s Magisterium is a part of the Spirit’s work.

150. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true? We know the Holy Spirit in (688):

a. Scripture and Tradition
b. the Church’s Magisterium
c. in prayer, especially the liturgy
d. the charisms, but not in ministries

e. missionary activity
f. the lives of the saints

Source: Jim Seghers’ Total Tauro Ministries, http://www.totaltauro.com
djseg@gmail.com - 210-808-2303

Birthdays & Anniversary Wishes

The list of birthdays and ordination anniversaries is provided so that parishioners may remember the priests, deacons and religious in their prayers and send them a note or a card.

» Birthdays
1. Rev. Francisco Tsanga, SCJ
2. Rev. M. Kumar Nayak, S.S.C.C.
3. Rev. Oscar Ortega Mancha
4. Rev. Arturo Cardenas
5. Rev. Samuel Arizpe
6. Deacon Javier A. Garcia
7. Deacon Leon Diaz
8. Deacon Julio Castillo
9. Deacon Luis Zuniga
10. Deacon Louis Oden
11. Deacon Jose Guerra
12. Sister Irma Gonzalez, IWBS
13. Sister Patricia Edmison, MM
14. Sister Therese Ridge, IWBS

» Anniversaries
22. Rev. George Kerketta
26. Rev. Jose R. Torres IL, OMI
12. Deacon Inocencio Diaz

Source: Catholic Diocese of Brownsville, Office of Stewardship and Grants
Many people are understandably experiencing uncertainty and anxiety due to the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

The severity of the situation has forced our leaders to make significant changes in our daily lives including suspending publicly celebrated Masses. Recognizing that these changes likely leave us even more in need of God's grace, The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and other Catholic partners have generously made their resources available to support prayer during these difficult days.

Please use freely and share with others. A sense of community is of the upmost importance. We must encourage each other, take care of each other, pray for each other and stay connected to our faith during this time of social distancing.

Upcoming Sunday Liturgy of the Word
Celebration of the Word for each Sunday can be used at home alone or as a group. 
https://us.magnificat.net/skin/frontend/default/theme278k/images/site/Celebration_US.pdf

Daily Readings from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
• English: http://www.usccb.org/bible/coverings/
• Spanish: http://www.usccb.org/bible/lecturas/032720cfm

Online Masses
• Immaculate Conception Cathedral Live Streaming with Bishop Daniel E. Flores
  facebook.com/CatholicRGV/
• Online Masses for Parish Schedules
  https://www.cdob.org/onlinemass/
• Catholic News Live Streaming Pope Francis’ Masses
  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx3e5y9q0A3GWA4FVGLA/videos
• Catholic TV Mass
  https://www.watchhemass.com/
• Catholic Faith Network Masses
  https://www.catholicfaithnetwork.org/masses
• San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio – Mass in Spanish
  https://vimeo.com/sanfernandocathedral

PRAYERS
COVID-19: A Prayer of Solidarity
Maternal Intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe from Archbishop Gomez

Pray as You Go:
• Lent https://pray-as-you-go.org/retreat/lent-2020?fbclid=IwAR0xm3HL-Ha4fpkCe9DpSrkVgrE3KbH51B9qyD8S3zVemLZ-d-TgRlFxzo
• Daily Prayer
  https://pray-as-you-go.org/?fbclid=IwAR0s42vwAvZ2ubwT5F8F4q6s57f0rSIzXeqp-nKHQYxhe2T5Z3aq2E

Family Life
• Building Family Bonds during COVID-19
• Family Life in a Pandemic

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (for parents)
• For parents https://www.cgsusa.org/homepage/covid-19-response/
• For children https://www.cgsusa.org/homepage/covid-19-response/
• Public health resources https://www.cgsusa.org/homepage/covid-19-response/
La Alegría de Vivir

De repente nos despertamos un día, no sabíamos cómo. Disney se apagó la magia, la muralla China no era tan fuerte, ahora Nueva York si duerme y ningún camino quiere conducir a Roma. Un virus se corona como duelo del mundo y nos dimos cuenta de nuestra maldad. No sabemos si el daño es a propósito o irresponsabilidad de nosotros mismos, pero la amenaza está ahí, cada día más fuerte, ya los mèmes no causan tanta risa, los abrazos y los besos se transformaron en armas peligrosas y las escasees de productos nos demuestra una vez más lo egoísta somos. Tan egoístas que dijimos: “No hay como un virus se solo se lleva a los viejitos”, como si no tuviéramos a nuestros padres y abuelos, y solo nosotros no fuéramos a llegar nunca ahí.

Queremos hacer valer nuestro derecho a decidir si dejamos vivir, o no, a otro; y ahora nos damos cuenta de que no podemos más decidir por la vida de otros. Un planeta se pone una máscara, no solo para un virus, sino para tapar nuestra vulnerabilidad mezclada con soberbia. Y se lava las manos por higiene, pero más como si quisieramos no reconocer nuestra responsabilidad, tal como cómo un Pilitos.

Sí, hay miedo. Sí, hay aislamiento, así lo hay; compras de pan, sí, hay enfermedad, incluso hay muerte. Pero dicen que en Wuhan, después de tantos años de ruido industrial, pueden escuchar a los pajarejos de nuevo. Dicen que después de unas pocas semanas de quietud, el cielo ya no está lleno de nubes, pero de azul y gris claro.

Dicen que en las calles vacías de Asis, la gente está cantando desde sus casas y sus balcones, manteniendo sus ventanas abiertas, para que los que están solos, puedan escuchar las voces de las familias a su alrededor. Dicen que en un hotel en el oeste de Irlanda, ofrecen comida gratis y las entregas a domicilio. En las iglesias, sinagoga, templos y mezquitas, se están preparando para dar la bienvenida y preparar a los desamparados, enfermos y cansados. En todo el mundo la gente está desacelerando y reflexionando. En todo el mundo, las personas miran a sus vecinos de una manera nueva. En todo el mundo, la gente está despertando a una nueva realidad. A lo grande que realmente somos, a que poco control tenemos realmente, a lo que realmente importa… AMAR.

Entonces rezamos y recordamos que: Sí, hay miedo, pero no tiene que haber odio. Sí, hay aislamiento, pero no tiene que haber soledad. Sí, hay compras de pánico, pero no tiene que haber egoísmo. Sí, hay.

Por favor lea las Reflexiones p.11

Vida Familiar

Todo le pertenece a Dios

Dios nos creó del gran amor que Él tiene y del gran amor que Él es.

Genésis 1:26-28: Entonces Dios dijo: “Hagamos al hombre a nuestra imagen, conforme a nuestra semejanza, y que gobierne sobre los peces del mar y sobre las aves del cielo y sobre el ganado y sobre toda la tierra, y sobre cada cosa que se arrastra sobre la tierra”. Dios bendijo a su ser, a su propia imagen, a imagen de Dios lo creó; hombre y mujer los creó. Dios los bendijo.

Consideramos Dios como el que gobernará sobre los peces, las aves y el ganado, los estamos y el cielo y sobre toda la tierra, el hombre y la mujer, de su propia imagen, de imagen de Dios lo creó; hombre y mujer los creó. Dios los bendijo.

La tierra, nuestra vida, nuestros hijos y familia; nuestros talentos y trabajos; nuestro hogar, recursos y dinero; y nuestro tiempo pertenecen a Dios.

La tierra le pertenece a Dios. Como familias, podemos trabajar para proteger el medio ambiente del mundo de maneras pequeñas o grandes. Incluso las pequeñas cosas que damos a regalo, como reciclar latas, botellas, papel y cartón; conservar agua y energía; o usar bolsas de compras reutilizables nos sirven para ayudar a cuidar la tierra.

Nuestra vida le pertenece a Dios. Una de nuestras tareas principales como católicos es cuidar de nuestro cuerpo: vivir en el mejor estado posible para la que Él nos ha dado de manera especial. Para que descubrimos la escultura de nuestro cuerpo, como la verdadera transformación lleva toda una vida. Yo enseño un curso basado en la investigación para solteros titulado “Cómo evitar casarse con un patán/ patana” y el autor declara que lo que hace que una persona sea un patán/ patana es la “Resistencia persistente” de no comprar productos persistentemente para trabajar en lo que sabemos que debemos hacer) porque cada uno de nosotros tenemos nuestros defectos que necesitan ser transformados.

Nuestros hijos y nuestra familia pertenecen a Dios. Se nos da la gran bendición de cuidarlos, disciplinarlos y criarlos en la fe. Tal vez soy uno de los primeros obispos hispanos en los Estados Unidos. En 1890, se convirtió en el segundo obispo del vicariato apostólico de Brownsville.

En muchos sentidos, todos somos hijos e hijas adoptivos de Dios. Efesios 1:3-6: “Biened el Dios y Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, quien nos ha bendecido con toda bendición espiritual de los lugares celestiales en Cristo, tal como nos eligió en Él antes de la creación del mundo, para que nosotros fuéramos santos y sin mancha delante de Él. En el amor, nos predestinó a la adopción como hijos a través de Jesucristo para que compartimos sus bendiciones, y que compartimos nuestro amor. Ella pertenece a Dios pero tenemos la bendición de disfrutar, aprender y compartir nuestra vida con ella.

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La tierra, nuestra vida, nuestros hijos y familia; nuestros talentos y trabajos; nuestro hogar, recursos y dinero; y nuestro tiempo pertenecen a Dios.
SAN JUAN — La Iglesia Católica en sus 2,000 años de existencia a veces ha tenido que posponer la celebración pública de eventos y servicios religiosos, ya que la guerra o la peste se desataron.

“La Iglesia rara vez ha suspendido misas, pero en su historia lo ha hecho por una variedad de razones”, dijo el obispo Daniel E. Flores.

Este es uno de esos raros momentos para la Diócesis de Brownsville y muchas parroquias en todo el país. El brote del coronavirus ha llevado a muchas iglesias en los Estados Unidos a suspender los servicios religiosos públicos. Para la diócesis de Brownsville, el obispo Flores anunció el 18 de marzo una directiva para suspender las celebraciones públicas de las misas.

La orden del obispo también significa que otros eventos públicos como festivales, programas de retiro y programas de educación religiosa se suspenderán hasta nuevo aviso. La directiva entró en vigencia el 19 de marzo.

“Estas medidas severas se toman con gran pena, pero son necesarias a mi juicio en aras de proteger vidas”, dijo el obispo Flores. “Actualmente no hemos sido tan afectados como el lejano norte o la costa este, pero lo seremos si no encontramos alguna forma de actuar y tomar medidas de protección”.

Hizo hincapié en que la Iglesia no detendrá su ministerio. Los sacerdotes en la Diócesis continuarán celebrando misa todos los días y los domingos, aunque se hará sin la asistencia de feligreses. Pero el misterio de la misa y el sacrificio de Cristo continuarán celebrándose en las iglesias de todas las comunidades de la diócesis.

“Creo que es un momento para que los católicos aprecien el regalo que es la Eucaristía”, dijo el obispo Flores. “Debemos rezar unos por los otros para que podamos vivir la caridad que significa”.

Una prioridad durante la suspensión de los servicios públicos será ayudar a los ancianos y a los más vulnerables en tiempos difíciles. Es una manera, dijo el obispo, de vivir la Eucaristía para servir a los más necesitados y mantenerse conectados con la iglesia. Es importante hacerlo cuando los feligreses no tengan acceso a sus iglesias.

“Será una gran falta la gente experimentará, y estoy muy consciente de eso”, dijo el obispo Flores. “Muchos llorarán porque no pueden ir a misa”. La diócesis y muchas de sus iglesias transmitirán en vivo las celebraciones de la misa a través de Facebook y las redes sociales, dijo el obispo. Los servicios de la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de San Juan del Valle Santuario Nacional también se transmitirán en vivo, incluida la Semana Santa, si es necesario, dijo. Los funerales, las confesiones y la unción de los enfermos continuarán, dijo el obispo. Habrá condiciones para tener esos servicios, dijo, con más detalles sobre esos asuntos. “Es la forma en que cuidamos a las personas”, dijo el obispo Flores sobre esos servicios. “Le pido a las personas que sean pacientes y se ayuden unos a otros”.

La suspensión de las misas públicas seguramente dejará un impacto financiero negativo en la diócesis ya que esos servicios son un momento en que los feligreses dan a su iglesia. El obispo Flores dijo que el aspecto de suspender misas públicas es una preocupación, pero “no es mi mayor preocupación”, dijo, señalando las pérdidas que experimentarán las familias con pérdidas de trabajo y los sacrificios que se sufragarán en los hogares individuales como resultado.

“La Iglesia sufrirá como todos los demás”, dijo el obispo.

Los fieles ahora pueden ver la misa en TV o conectarse en línea para participar.

Por: R. DANIEL CAVAZOS
The Valley Catholic
Father Richard J. Sheehan, O.M.I.
March 2, 1935 - March 13, 2020


Father Sheehan professed vows as a member of the Congregational Scholasticate in Rome, Italy on May 31, 1955. After his philosophical and theological studies, he continued ongoing education courses at Notre Dame University in Indiana in 1989. He retired to Oblate Madonna Residence in San Antonio in 2007. This year, Father Sheehan would have celebrated his 65th anniversary of First Vows. One of 14 children, he is survived by numerous siblings, nieces and nephews, mostly in the Chicago area.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 1961 in Rome. After ordination, Father Sheehan received his first obedience to Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Edgerton, Texas. He remained in Texas at Midland (St. Ann), San Antonio (St. Mary’s), Laredo (St. Augustine), San Benito (St. Benedict), Huntsville (St. Thomas), McAllen (Our Lady of Perpetual Help), Corpus Christi (Holy Family), Mission (Our Lady of Guadalupe), San Juan (St. John the Baptist), Brownsville, (Immaculate Conception Cathedral), Roma (Our Lady of Refuge), and McAllen (Sacred Heart Parish).

Father Sheehan’s first assignment was in Chatham, Massachusetts; he subsequently served parishes in Fairhaven, Massachusetts; Rochester, New York; and Harlingen. From 1984 to 1997 he served as development director and treasurer for the USA East Province of the Congregation, developing the province’s first computerized system.

From 2001 through 2007 Father Penderghest served at the Congregation’s General House in Rome and was appointed as General Econome (Treasurer) for the worldwide community. From 1977 to 1984, he was pastor of Queen of Peace Church in Harlingen, where he led construction of the new church. In 2008 he returned there as pastor, a position he held until his retirement in October 2017.

Father Penderghest is survived by his SS.CC. brothers around the world. Funeral arrangements were pending at press time.

Deacon Heriberto Solis, Jr.
Nov. 28, 1927 - March 1, 2020

Deacon Heriberto Solis, Jr., 92, passed away Sunday, March 1, 2020. He was born Nov. 28, 1927 in Brownsville. A U.S. Army veteran, he later worked for the U.S. Postal Service and then taught at Texas Southmost College.

Deacon Solis served in the dioceses of Corpus Christi and Brownsville, and in the archdioceses of Los Angeles, San Antonio, Louisville, and St. Louis. Memorial contributions may be made to the Missionaries of the Holy Family, 3014 Oregon Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118, or online at www.msf-americas.org.

Aménaza continúa de pág. 9

Father William T. “Bill” Penderghest, SS.CC.
Jan. 28, 1941 - March 26, 2020

Father William T. Penderghest, SS.CC., 78, passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2020 in Harlingen, Texas after a brief hospitalization.

Entering the Novitiate of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Fairhaven, Massachusetts on Sept. 1, 1960, he was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 1967 in Jaffrey Center, New Hampshire.

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Father James E. Wuerth, M.S.F.
March 6, 1942 - March 7, 2020

Father James E. Wuerth, M.S.F., 78, passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Father Wuerth, a member of the religious community of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, was born in Louisville, Kentucky on March 6, 1942. He attended Holy Family Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, graduated with a Master of Divinity degree, and was ordained a priest on June 13, 1971.

Father Wuerth embraced many assignments throughout his long, distinguished, and loving vocation as a priest. He served in the dioceses of Corpus Christi and Brownsville, and in the archdioceses of Los Angeles, San Antonio, Louisville, and St. Louis.

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Aménaza continúa de pág. 9

Flores. “Encontraremos un camino”.

Los sacerdotes en las parroquias individuales tendrán sus propios desafíos para continuar sirviendo a sus feligreses durante un tiempo en el que no se les permita el acceso a sus iglesias. En San Pedro, al oeste de Brownsville en la carretera militar, el padre Joel Flores dijo que su mayor preocupación es por las personas mayores que no pueden abandonar sus hogares por temor a contraer el virus. El padre Flores dijo que su parroquia usará tiendas de campaña para asegurarse de que los ancianos no se queden sin necesidades.

También planea llevar su Capilla Móvil a los vecindarios por los vecindarios y un asistente tocará la campana mientras las personas en el Santísimo Sacramento. “Es una forma de llevar la parroquia a Galilea para ver al Señor caminar por sus hogares. "Es lo más cercano a celebrar la misa pública que podemos tener", dijo. "Mantiene a las personas seguras y les recuerda que son amadas".

La difícil situación asociada con el coronavirus eventualmente pasará. Cuando lo haga, la Iglesia estará allí para los fieles, tal como ha sido y seguirá siendo durante mucho tiempo.

Volveremos a tener misa en nuestras iglesias”, dijo el obispo Flores. “La gente se regocijará. Este es un regalo que nunca se perderá en el corazón de sus feligreses durante mucho tiempo. PrayLiving

The Valley Catholic • April 2020

WEEKDAYS | WEEKENDS | ONLINE
BACHELOR’S | MASTER’S | DOCTORAL

Our Faith AFFIRMS

INFO SESSION APR. 14 | 5:30 P.M.
956-227-0146
1650 S. MAIN
LA FERIA, TX 78559

OLLU
OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY
RIO GRANDE VALLEY
RGV.ollusa.edu
**Easter Sunday Mass**

11 a.m., April 12, 2020

**Bishop Daniel E. Flores**

**Mass of the Lord’s Supper**
- Institution of the Eucharist
- Story of the Last Supper

**Good Friday**
April 10

**Holy Thursday**
April 9

**Holy Saturday**
Morning, April 11

**Easter Vigil**
April 10

**Easter Sunday**
April 12

**Shades & Imagery**
- Bal Harbour
- Jerusalem (Temple)
- Roman Forum
- Garden Night Watch, Visit of the She People

**Suggestions for the Domestic Church**
- Pray a home altar with bread and grapes, include an image of the Last Supper, a palm frond (or anything else one chooses). "Very important: this is the day of the renewal of the world. It is the day of瀏覽 the Cross around your home, meditate on the Seven Last Words of Christ, apply these to your current situation, have your own Cross to venerate.

**Relic**

**The Way of the Cross**
Good Friday Liturgy: The Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ, Veneration of the Cross, the Seven Last Words of Christ, Solemn Intercessions

**Daily of Fasting and Abstinence**
- Every Friday except during the Easter season

**Liturgical Colors**
- Purple
- White
- Red
- Black

**Liturgical Color Purple**
- Read the events of these three days as related in the Gospels:
  - Monday: Matthew 21:12-18
  - Tuesday: Matthew 21:19-22:46
  - Wednesday: Matthew 26:1-16

**God Friday**
April 10

**Good Friday Liturgy**
- Supper; Institution of the Holy Eucharist

**Easter Vigil**
April 10

**Easter Sunday**
April 12

**Liturgical Color White**

**Holy Week in the Domestic Church**

**Shades & Imagery**
- Visit the actual places! Jesus Christ held up well-known giants for young readers to imitate.
- Mary, Mother of Jesus, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Joan of Arc, St. Philip Neri and many more.

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- Every Friday except during the Easter season

**Liturgical Colors**
- Purple
- White
- Red
- Black
Shields of Christ members share faith, experiences

By R. DANIEL CAZAVOS

The Valley Catholic

MISSION — A police officer keeps a public façade of calm even after witnessing atrocities in the line of duty. That's how Mission police officer Veronica Longoria describes it. She grew up the daughter of a McAllen police chief. Longoria came to know the role well — the ability to project a calmness in the aftermath of even after witnessing atrocities.

One officer's death can only be discussed among those who serve in their field of public service. They each offer their members an opportunity to share experiences and communicate and collaborate. "You can't tell everyday people what you see and hear (as an officer)," said Norma Muñoz, a special operations supervisor (officer), "I saw that I don't join groups. "I saw that I don't join groups." Muñoz, who described herself as "a Catholic school girl. "She had become inactive in church life beyond.

"You hit slumps in your life," said Muñoz, who described herself as "someone who normally does not go to mass. "I saw that I don't have to do this by myself. We all have the same belief and that's in God."

Rodriguez of the sheriff's office described herself as "a Catholic school girl." She had become inactive in church life and was at a distance from the religious life she knew growing up. "I jump-starts you in your faith," Rodriguez said of Shields of Christ.

The Shields retreats and meetings give officers the opportunity to unite and spread the word of Jesus Christ. It helps them deal with the dark and negative interactions and events they see in their daily lives as police officers. There's a heaviness to their work to go with the fulfillment of serving their communities.

To have an organization like Shields of Christ lightens the load and raises their faith to meet the many challenges they face every day. "We needed something like this," Longoria said. "It brings light into our darkness."