

Diocese of Austin

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Office of the Bishop

April 21, 2016

Dear Austin Interfaith and Texas IAF Leaders:

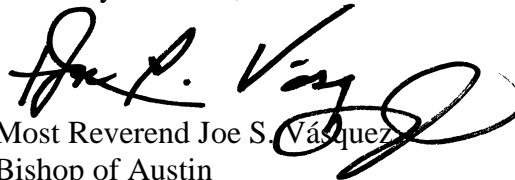
The Texas Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) Network *Forty Years of Organizing Celebration* is a significant summit to highlight the great achievements of your blessed efforts in support of families and communities. On behalf of the faithful of the Diocese of Austin, and in my own name, I congratulate you on more than forty years of service and organizing in Texas.

Austin Interfaith, through its virtuous work, proves that those living in poverty are more than figures and statistics. Austin Interfaith provides leadership development to enable citizens to collaborate and navigate effectively through the political process with governmental and community leaders around issues of common concern. Accordingly, its organizing recognizes the concrete faces of persons with families and communities by appreciating the inherent dignity of the human person.

Our diocese continues to offer our heartfelt prayers for the strength and wisdom to continue to meet the difficult challenges that face our communities as you pursue the common good, especially in care of the most vulnerable among us, including the unborn, the poor, and the immigrant. As you continue to consider the many complex issues affecting society—elimination of poverty, economy, education, health care, and ecology—be assured of the respect of the Catholic Church in desiring to cooperate with you, and with all people of good will, in seeking the welfare of our community.

Again, congratulations on more than forty years of service and organizing in Texas.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez
Bishop of Austin

JSV:mj