



# THE VALLEY CATHOLIC

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 5

SERVING MORE THAN A MILLION CATHOLICS IN THE DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE

OCTOBER 2019



The Valley Catholic

Oct. 2  
Feast of the Guardian Angels

"See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared. Be attentive to him and obey him." (Exodus 23: 20-21)"

Angels along Ponte Sant'Angelo over the Tiber River in Rome hold instruments of Christ's Passion.

For more on guardian angels, please see "Women en la Frontera" on Page 4.

## Diocese, Valley Interfaith team up to offer a new kind of ID

By PAUL BINZ | The Valley Catholic

PHARR — Bishop Daniel E. Flores joined Valley Interfaith leaders Sept. 24 in Las Milpas to introduce the "parish identification strategy," a program to provide all members of Diocese of Brownsville parishes a way to identify themselves to local law enforcement regardless of their legal documentation or status.

Speaking to a packed room of nearly 500 people at the Pharr Research and Development Center in Las Milpas, Bishop Flores said the need for identification has a profound significance in people's lives – and more so for the marginalized immigrant.

"I would like to emphasize that the ID means something more than simply its implication that you have an identification, an address, a picture or something to show perhaps if you're stopped at a red light or for some other reason," Bishop Flores said. "It means something

much deeper: 'I belong to a parish, and so in this community, I am not living in the shadows.'"

Several local officials joined in the effort, including police chiefs and officials from Pharr, Edinburg and McAllen. Emceeding the event, Oblate Father Kevin Collins, pastor of St. Eugene de Mazenod Parish in Brownsville, asked them to respond to three questions:

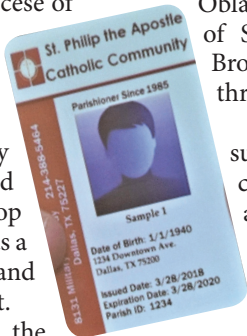
"While we know there is no substitute for a government-issued ID, could an officer in their discretion accept a photo ID – for example, of a school or a church ID – in order to identify themselves? That's first."

"Second, will you train your police officers to recognize multiple forms of ID?"

"Third, will you continue to work with us to build trust and to address crime together?"

In turn, Edinburg Police Chief Cesar Torres,

» Please see **Identification** p.2



Paul Binz | The Valley Catholic

As Bishop Daniel E. Flores looks on, Sister Norma Pimentel, director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, unveils a check for \$10,000 from her agency to help fund a new program to issue ID cards from parishes.



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Texas Encuentro  
2019 celebrates  
Blessed María  
Concepción Cabrera

**Those Who Serve**  
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Deacon  
Robert  
Cano



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Historias y fotos del Encuentro de Texas 2019 del Apostolado de la Cruz, visita de la reliquia de San José Sánchez del Río y anuncio sobre nueva forma de identificación.

**For video and more photos**  
Visit the Diocese of Brownsville on its social media pages.





# Catholic radio on air in Harlingen in English, throughout Valley in Spanish

By **MICHAEL SWARTZ**  
The Valley Catholic

**HARLINGEN** — Motorists driving around Harlingen can now tune into Catholic Christian radio, broadcasting on 99.9 FM (KHQR-LP) in English.

In addition, Catholic radio is now on the air in Spanish throughout the Rio Grande Valley, on 88.9 FM in Cameron County and on 88.1 FM in Hidalgo County (through Relevant Radio).

The new radio stations — all of which broadcast Catholic radio 24 hours a day, seven days a week — represent a significant expansion of Catholic radio in the Valley, especially for Cameron and Hidalgo counties.

In Starr County, a pioneering Catholic radio station has been broadcasting for several years in

Rio Grande City, KSGS-LP 99.9 FM “Good News Catholic Radio,” which was started by the sisters of the Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd.

Catholic radio is also available nationwide through the SiriusXM satellite radio system, channels 129 and 130.

The mission of Catholic radio includes promoting prayer and the Gospel through the radio. Radio broadcasts are intended to bring the Gospel message to many people in an “unthreatening” way, including those who may not go to church or have been away from church for many years ... but who may listen in to the radio in the privacy of their own vehicle.

The outreach of Catholic Christian radio is in the spirit of St. Pope John Paul II, who before the turn of the century stated,

“Perhaps one of the finest gifts which we could offer to Jesus Christ on the 2000th anniversary of His birth would be that the Good News will at last be made known to every person in the world ... the communications media make that theoretically possible; we, by God’s grace, must make it a reality.”

The new Catholic radio station on 99.9 FM in Harlingen is a low-power FM station operated by the Prayer Well Educational Association, Inc. of Harlingen. Officers of the Prayer Well Educational Association include Robert Holder, a parishioner at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Harlingen; Rachel Riano, a parishioner at Queen of Peace Church in Harlingen; and Rita Kelly, a parishioner at St. Francis Xavier Church in La Feria.



Paul Binz | The Valley Catholic

A new low-power Catholic radio station is now broadcasting in Harlingen, on 99.9 FM in English. Above, Dr. Robert Holder, left, president of the Prayer Well Educational Association, Inc., which operates KHQR-LP, thanks Robert Martinez, Financial Secretary of Knights of Columbus Council #2785 in Harlingen, for the Knights’ support of Catholic radio.

## Identification

*continued from pg. 1*

Pharr Police Chief Jose Luengo and McAllen Police Captain Irene Luna all agreed, affirming broad governmental support at the local level.

The parish ID program originated about a year and a half ago in Farmers Branch, a suburb of Dallas.

“They noticed that very few people were going to Mass,” said Joe Hinojosa of Valley Interfaith and a parishioner at Holy Spirit Parish in McAllen, recounting the origins of the program. “They asked the people why, and they said they were afraid to leave their homes.”

So many of the residents of

the city were undocumented, they seldom ventured out other than to go to work or to the grocery store, and avoided contact with police even when they became victims of crime.

The police chief there was asked if his department would accept a local parish ID with photo, name and address, and the chief said yes, Hinojosa said.

Today, some 10,000 people in the Dallas area are carrying the parish ID cards, Father Collins said.

A similar situation exists in the Valley.

“We spoke with immigrant members of our parish, St. Eugene (de Mazenod),” Rosie Hinojosa, a Valley Interfaith leader from Brownsville, said. “They are afraid to drop off their children at school or buy

groceries.

“When we asked them what they most need, they told us they need an identification,” she said. “Now that they know the diocese and their parishes are working with them on this strategy, we see hope in their faces.”

Father Collins explained the card’s limitations to the crowd.

“The ID is not a get-out-of-jail free card; it does not give you permission to drive; it is not a government ID in any way,” he said. “It is simply an ID that says you are a member of the parish that’s on there; your date of birth is there; your address is there. It expires. You must be a member of the church at least three months ahead of time before an ID will be issued.”

During the meeting, Sister Norma Pimentel, director of

Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, presented a check for \$10,000 from that organization as starter money to finance the program.

Those issuing the card will not be limited to Catholic parishes, Father Collins said. Other denominations and organizations will also be able to participate in the program.

“Too much of the focus is on the national and state conversation regarding immigration,” said Franciscan Father Tom Luczak, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Edinburg. “This is a local strategy that gives my own parishioners the dignity of being able to identify themselves to a police officer.


“This will positively affect them. That is what excites me,” Father Luczak said.



Paul Binz | The Valley Catholic

Bishop Daniel E. Flores, above, spoke about the deeper implications of identity at the Sept. 24 meeting introducing parish ID cards. Father Kevin Collins, below far left, detailed the card’s restrictions. Law enforcement officials, below center, from three Hidalgo County cities were on hand to endorse the program as a crowd estimated at 450 people packed the Pharr Research and Development Center in Las Milpas.





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# Legal community readies for Red Mass on Oct. 23

The Valley Catholic

**EDINBURG** — The 26th annual Red Mass, which celebrates the legal profession, is scheduled at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at Holy Family Church, 1302 E. Champion St. in Edinburg.

A procession will begin from Edinburg Memorial Park and proceed to the church. Bishop Daniel E. Flores will celebrate the Mass and offer a blessing to all protectors and administrators of the law, including

lawyers, judges, government officials and law enforcement, as well as their families and support staffs. The Mass is open to people of all faiths.

The Red Mass is a time-honored tradition in the Catholic Church that dates back to 13th century Paris. The celebrant, concelebrants, deacons and honored guests enter the church in procession wearing red vestments or red clothing, symbolizing the Holy Spirit’s role in guiding those who seek and pursue justice in their daily lives.

The Red Mass, held annually in the fall in the Rio Grande Valley, usually alternating between Hidalgo and Cameron counties. The theme chosen by this year’s committee, led by Judge Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt from the 449th state District Court, focuses on caring for families and the elderly.

For more information on the Red Mass, please contact Melissa Flores at (956) 381-0744 or via email [melissa.flores@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:melissa.flores@co.hidalgo.tx.us).