



Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

El Paso, Tx Section



Newsletter Volume 2

September 2020



La Conquistadora,
Santa Fe, New Mexico

La Conquistadora Our Lady of Peace

This beautiful wooden statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary has had many names. According to tradition, the statue was brought from Spain to Mexico in the early 1600s and then to New Mexico in 1625. The name of the villa church in Santa Fe was Our Lady of the Assumption, and the statue was first known by this name.

Investiture, Promotions and Annual Meeting, October 25-27, 2019 Santa Fe, NM



Rev. James Marcus McFadin, KHS and Rev. Mark N.P. Salas, KHS were invested by his Eminence, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, KGCHS, Grand Prior of the Southwest Lieutenancy at the Santuario de San Martin de Porres in Albuquerque, NM 2019, as Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, KC*HS looks on.

La Conquistadora continued....

It was customary in both Spain and the New World to dress statues of Mary in the style of Spanish queens. There were few statues of such beauty in New Mexico, and this one became known as the “Queen of the Kingdom of New Mexico and the Villa of Santa Fe.” The custom of dressing the statue continues, with colors often coordinated to the liturgical seasons. The faithful sometimes donate jewels and handmade dresses and robes. For the occasion of the Equestrian Order meeting, La Conquistadora is dressed as an EOHSJ dame.



Archbishop John C. Wester KC*HS of Santa Fe presiding over the Conferring of Promotions and Holy Mass at St Francis Cathedral.



Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, KC*HS venerates the altar as the bishops enter the Santuario de San Martin de Porres Church for Investiture and Holy Mass,



Rev. James Marcus McFadin, KHS and Rev. Mark N.P. Salas, KHS, Investiture 2019



Investiture celebration 2019, Dame Marie & Victor Portillo, Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, KC*HS, Rev. Mark Salas, KHS, & Rev. James Marcus McFadin, KHS

Equestrian Order Information Events

Two EOHSJ information events were held in 2019, one on the Eastside of El Paso on the Sunday after Thanksgiving at the home of Sir Manny and Dame Maureen de la Rosa. The other was held the following Sunday on the Westside of El Paso, thank you Dame Pat Foley for hosting! The events were fruitful as we had eleven potential new investees. Unfortunately, with the cancellation of the Annual Meeting & Investiture in October 2020 due to Covid-19, the investiture of the new members will have to be deferred until Fort Worth in 2021. Nine of the potential investees have decided to be invested in 2021. Congratulations!



Covid-19

Not since the Influenza pandemic of 1918 that caused the deaths of over 50 Million people has a virus caused as much terror, tragedy, and mayhem as Covid-19. It is necessary to adjust as we all try to do our part to protect our neighbors and ourselves. Just as many had to shelter in place and work from home across the nation, our bishops decided the safest plan for their flock would be to keep the faithful at home on Sundays and livestream the Mass through television or social media. Likewise, the EOHSJ Southwest Lieutenancy found it necessary to cancel both its Spring representatives' Council meeting and its fall Annual Meeting & Investiture. God willing, and with creativity, these meetings will resume next year. We cannot forget in the midst of these trials and tribulations that the Christians in the Holy Land, who already suffer greatly, are suffering even more with their livelihood of tourism and trade no longer operating.

Even if you cannot pay your full annual contribution, please donate to the best of your ability.





Msgr. Francis J. Smith, P.A

KCHS

Loving Tribute for a Valiant Knight

Msgr. Francis J. Smith, who was well known as the pastor of St. Raphael Parish for 29 years before retiring in 2015, died Friday morning, January 24th, 2020.

"Our prayers are with the soul of Msgr. Smith. He was a pillar in the church of El Paso and served our diocese with faith and love," Patricia Lopez, chancellor of the Diocese of El Paso, said in an emailed statement. She went on to say, he "always saw God in the people he served."

He was born May 20, 1934, in Chicago and was the grandchild of Eastern European immigrants who came through Ellis Island and were renamed Smith, according to a diocese release. His father, a steelworker, and his mother provided him with a Catholic school education.

Smith was ordained March 25, 1967 and was assigned to the Diocese of El Paso.

He served in several parishes, including St. Joseph Parish as an associate priest, All Saints Parish as pastor, and St. Pius X Parish as pastor. During his service at St. Pius X, he received the honorary title of monsignor.

At St. Raphael, he also oversaw the school and as church pastor baptized, confirmed, and married thousands of El Paso's Catholic faithful.

El Pasoan Rosalie Daw, who knew Smith from the time he was a seminarian, said he was a holy man who also was like a brother and uncle to her family and to many families in El Paso.

"He was a down-to-earth person and one of those guys that was a friend to everyone," she said. Smith baptized all nine of her children and all 32 of her grandchildren and even a few great-grandchildren."

Monsignor Smith also served the diocese as the vicar general and moderator of the curia.

In 2015, Monsignor Smith was honored as the first recipient of the Foundation's Dei Gratia Award during the Ninth Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner. The Dei Gratia Award recognizes people for their servant leadership and outstanding contribution to the Diocese of El Paso and Catholic community.

According to the Foundation, Smith made the crowd laugh when he quoted another Chicago native, Jack Benny, as he accepted his award: "I don't deserve this award, but I have arthritis and I don't deserve that either."

Our El Paso EOHSJ diocesan section will miss him greatly.

2020 Feast Day Celebrations

In honor of two of the patron saints of the Equestrian Order, our diocesan section gathered for Vespers and Holy Mass. On August 18, 2020, at St Luke's Parish, Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, KC*HS presided over Vespers and Mass honoring St. Helena, who found the true Cross of Christ. The section attended a dinner at a local restaurant after the Mass keeping to the Covid-19 guidelines. Later that week, on August 21, 2020, at Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Rev. Mark Salas, KHS presided over Vespers and Mass honoring Pope St. Pius X. Fellowship and dinner was enjoyed in the church hall after Mass.



Left: Photo of Pope St. Pius X with his relic and a relic of St. Helena; right: Fr. Mark Salas, elevating the monstrance during Vespers.



Dame Maureen de la Rosa and Dame Marie Portillo admiring the Holy Cross relic, while Sir Jose (Manny) de la Rosa and Sir Earl Sanchez confer.



Mass procession for the memorial of St. Pius X, future investee, Dr. Robert Rankin is in the pew, Sir Earl Sanchez carries the cross followed by Sir Manny de la Rosa, Dame Marie Portillo, and Fr. Mark Salas.



Sir Earl Sanchez places the relic of the Holy Cross in its holder.



Future investees: Deacon Guillermo & Ruth Jiron and Dr. Robert & Paula Rankin



Fr. Mark Salas, KHS, prepares the altar with incense. The chalice was touched and used at the holy sites of the Holy Land.



Recitation of the "Knights' and Dames' prayer" before the altar



Sir Manny & Dame Maureen de la Rosa serve Enchiladas after the Mass. Dame Marie Portillo is in the background.



Anthony Acosta, a future investee, venerates the relic of the True Cross.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 14, 2020

For those, whose health allows them to gather, the El Paso section will have Vespers and Mass for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross at Our Lady of Assumption Church beginning at 5:30 pm. Mass will be followed by dinner at OLA for those who would like to attend. Please remember that masks and physical distancing will be expected.



Our Lady of Palestine

If it is possible, the EL Paso Diocese section will again gather for Our Lady of Palestine at the end of October. More information will be forthcoming for that event.

If you are not able to attend or the section cannot gather, please remember our brothers and sisters suffering in the Holy Land by reciting the Holy Rosary and the prayer to Our Lady of Palestine.



Prayer to Our Lady of Palestine

O God, who by Your wondrous Providence, ordained all things, we implore You most earnestly; permit Palestine where Your only begotten Son with unspeakable love accomplished the mysteries of our redemption, through the intercession of Our Lady, the Queen of Palestine, to be protected from all harm and may it be worthy to make known Your Majesty. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ Who is God, living and reigning with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen