

Diocese of Austin

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Office of the Bishop

May 20, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

As chief shepherd of the Diocese of Austin, celebrating a priestly ordination is one of the most joyous occasions of the year for me. Ordinarily we would celebrate a priestly ordination in the month of June; however, this year, for the first time in nearly twenty years, we will not.

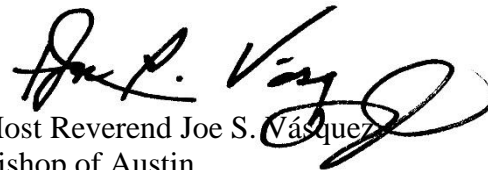
This sad news reminds me of the time when Jesus is moved with pity “[a]t the sight of the crowds...because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.” Jesus then commands his disciples, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest” (Matthew 9:36-38).

Following Christ’s command to his disciples, we will turn to the “master of the harvest” by having a diocesan *Holy Hour for Vocations* on **Saturday, June 10**. It is most appropriate that we gather on the eve of the Feast of Corpus Christi because without the priest, there is no Eucharist. I ask you to join me on this day at 10 am at St. Louis Catholic Church in Austin. We will begin with a spiritual conference given by a priest, followed by a Eucharistic holy hour to pray for more priestly vocations.

After the holy hour, a reception will follow honoring the priests who serve us. You can find more information about this event at www.austinvocations.com. I hope to see you there.

May God, by his grace and generosity, answer our prayers for more priests to serve the People of God in the Diocese of Austin.

Sincerely In Christ,



Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez
Bishop of Austin