

**HERITAGE AND HOPE
OUR STORY AS A DIOCESAN FAMILY
DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES**

II. EUCHARIST AND SHARED PRAYER

In a land set apart by natural boundaries, faithfulness to the community of the family is crucial to the preservation of life itself. Survival in the face of extreme circumstances fosters celebrations within the family, the Church, and civic communities. Our celebration of the Eucharist and the sacraments which are central in our lives of faith overflow with creativity and colorful fiestas, especially during the seasonal and patronal celebrations of Advent, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Christmas, Lent, the Easter Triduum, and Pentecost.

Our spirituality is formed by the Church in her effort to feed us with the Word at the Table of the Lord. In that context, we follow the lectionary of readings as a guide to study the scriptures and make application to our daily living. We form Christian communities that help us to share and to focus on the message of the gospel and the traditions of the Church. We are called to accountability in the areas of hospitality, evangelization, and stewardship.

The rich diversity of spiritual and devotional expressions are one in the persons of Jesus and his mother, Mary. Devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe is a unique element in the development of Christianity in our region. Her message of unconditional love as the Virgin, accessible to even the poorest of the poor, gives witness to the profound richness of enculturation. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, ever pregnant with Jesus, we, as a community of disciples among the many communities of disciples, strive to respect life in all stages and to embrace the gifts of the diverse people in our diocese.

With faith in the transforming action of the Eucharist, our diocese acknowledges and embraces the presence of poverty in many forms. Using our natural and human richness, we are challenged to reach out with the compassion of Jesus. As a diocese, we envision our many faith communities sharing resources so that all may have the necessities of life. Our common worship and shared prayer call us to fulfill the Scriptures: to welcome the immigrant, to feed the hungry, to find shelter for the homeless, to provide work that all may have dignity, to comfort the sorrowful and the lonely, to be peacemakers and to be single-minded with the mind of Jesus.

March 25, 1999