



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Director of Communications

For Immediate Release: Jan. 26, 2010

Contact: Jenny Faber, Director of Communications, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

jfaber@archgh.org

713.659.5461

FAST FACTS on Bishop Joe S. Vasquez, newly appointed Bishop of Austin

- Archbishop Emeritus Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston ordained Bishop Vasquez a priest for the Diocese of San Angelo in 1984, when Archbishop Fiorenza was Bishop of San Angelo. Archbishop Fiorenza also ordained Bishop Vasquez a bishop for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in 2002.
- Bishop Vasquez was the first priest of the Diocese of San Angelo to be named a bishop.
- He was born to native Texans who descended from a line of migrant workers who picked cotton and vegetables around San Antonio, before following work migration to the Abilene area.
- Bishop Vasquez credits his family – his working parents, five siblings, grandparents, great aunts and uncles and cousins – with cultivating his love and respect for the Catholic Church. In Stamford, a town of about 3,000, he grew up within blocks of extended family who frequently brought him to daily Mass as a boy and nurtured his vocation.
- His priestly assignments included tenures at three parishes – all named for St. Joseph – in the San Angelo diocese.
- Bishop Vasquez maintains a devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas.
- The bishop's episcopal motto is "Sigueme," or "Follow Me," which references Christ's invitation to follow His lead on the journey of faith. Bishop Vasquez' episcopal shield displays an image of the rose of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the upper left corner. The shield's lower right hand corner exhibits the flower of St. Joseph, in honor of the three St. Joseph parishes he served at from 1984 to 2002.
- The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston serves 1.5 million Catholics in 10 counties. It is the largest Roman Catholic diocese in Texas and the 11th largest in the United States.