



## DIocese OF FORT WORTH

### **Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Statement Regarding San Mateo Mission**

September 8, 2016

Pastoral care of the Spanish-speaking community and greater Hispanic community has been an integral part of the mission of the Diocese of Fort Worth since its founding in 1969. San Mateo Mission began before that date as an outreach to what was then considered to be a small and specialized ministry to Spanish-speaking Catholics for worship, fellowship, and religious education in the broader societal context of wrongful segregation. This mission and outreach have been administered at various times by the clergy and religious of different parishes in the City of Fort Worth. San Mateo Mission has operated at different geographic sites. For many of the most recent years the priests and staff of St. Patrick's Cathedral parish have been responsible for the administration of this mission. San Mateo has never been a self-sustaining parish community.

Since the establishment of the Diocese of Fort Worth on August 9, 1969, the Catholic population of the Diocese has grown dramatically along with the population of Spanish-speaking and Hispanic members of the larger community. Fort Worth parishes that provide full and integral ministry and worship for Spanish-speaking Catholics include Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, All Saints Parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, St. George Parish, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, St. Paul the Apostle Parish, St. Peter the Apostle Parish, St. Rita Parish, St. Bartholomew Parish, and nearby St. John the Apostle Parish. Mass attendance at San Mateo Mission has greatly diminished over these years.

Conversations about the viability and effectiveness of St. Patrick Cathedral's mission community at San Mateo as a ministry for the Spanish-speaking community dates back to the administration of the late-Bishop Joseph Delaney, former Bishop Kevin Vann, and, currently under the administration of Bishop Michael Olson. During the last two years, Spanish-language religious education has been administered at the site of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Therefore, after due consideration and consultation, for the greater and common good of the mission of the Diocese, with the salvation of souls in view, which is always the Church's primary concern, Masses and other sacramental ministries will no longer be provided at the current site of San Mateo Mission effective after Mass on Sunday, November 20, 2016. Beginning at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, November 27, 2016, the first Sunday of Advent, Mass will be celebrated in Spanish at St. Patrick's Cathedral and at that time on each Sunday after that. All remaining ministries in Spanish not already provided at St. Patrick's Cathedral will be transitioned to St. Patrick's Cathedral as a full and integral part of the mission of the Cathedral parish.

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