

Encountering Christ supports our rural parishes



There are 57 parishes with less than 500 families.

Our parishes are the heart of our diocese. It is where Catholics celebrate the sacraments, learn about and grow in the faith, pass on and model their beliefs and come together to serve their community. Each parish is rooted in the church but has its own identity and unique charism through its members.

Our diocese benefits from the diversity of our 123 parishes and missions, which are urban and rural, small and large, multilingual, with schools and without. Together, these parishes serve more than half a million Catholics. Given the critical role of parishes, ensuring their strength and sustainability is of the utmost importance as the Central Texas population continues to grow.

Our 80 parishes and missions in rural areas are crucial to the Catholic community in Central Texas. These rural churches may have less than a thousand families and may be the only parish for miles within their county. For these parishes, emergency costs may be too great to bear on their own. Sometimes, these costs threaten their solvency. But our rural parishes must remain open.

Through *Encountering Christ*, the diocese will create a \$3 million endowment to provide additional operational and emergency support for our rural parishes.

For an in depth look at one of our rural parishes, visit encounteringchristcampaign.org/videos and watch the “Parish Life — Rural Parishes” video.