

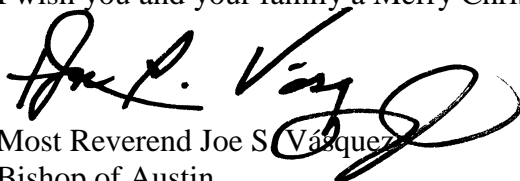
Dear Sisters and Brothers,

During this holy season of Advent, we prepare our hearts for the birth of our Savior on Christmas Day. I ask you to also take time to reflect on the many blessings we have received, which are true gifts from our loving God.

Our diocese has been so fortunate this year. Because of your generous support of our mission and ministries, we are able to do so much for so many. I know I am especially grateful for the willingness of our faithful to embrace *Encountering Christ* and help me fulfill the goals we identified in our diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Please join me in thanking Bishop Daniel Garcia for his years of faithful service. His foresight for this diocese, and our campaign, has been invaluable. Please pray for him and the people of the Diocese of Monterey during this time of transition.

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez  
Bishop of Austin