

## Diocese of Austin

6225 East US 290 Highway SVRD EB  
Austin, TX 78723  
(512) 949-2415 · Fax (512) 949-2521  
[www.austindiocese.org](http://www.austindiocese.org)

Office of the Bishop

December 7, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

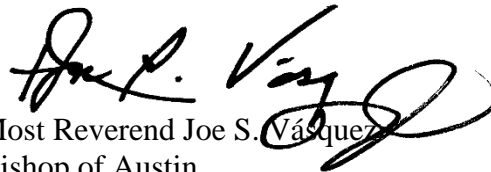
The experience of current events, most notably the COVID-19 pandemic, have brought into deep focus our time spent at home. For many, it has meant a much different experience of work, school and social activities. This time at home has given us moments to encounter God; our Catholic tradition calls these encounters with God the “Domestic Church.”

On December 27, 2020, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I will inaugurate a “Year of the Domestic Church” in the Diocese of Austin. This day will begin the year-long observance of the home as the first school of Christian life. Through prayer and action, Christian households lead to a flourishing of the parish family.

In our diocese, a poverty of material or spiritual resources is the reality for many. For some, home life can present challenges and difficulties. I pray especially that those without a human family know that the Church is a home and family to all. My hope is that your household, whether it is a home of one person or a family of many, will grow in wisdom and holiness.

May the *Year of the Domestic Church* be a time for us to experience and impart to others the merciful love of the Father through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez  
Bishop of Austin