

## Diocese of Austin

6225 Highway 290 East · Austin, TX 78723  
www.austindiocese.org

Office of the Bishop

February 11, 2018

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

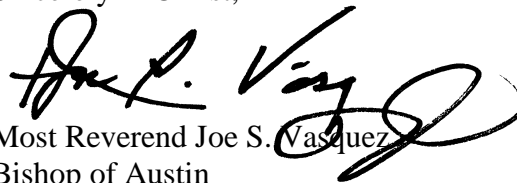
The World Day of the Sick is on Sunday, February 11. This is a time in which we are reminded of our call to attend to and comfort those who are ill, advanced in age, and those near death. Following the example of our Lord, we hope to bring comfort, healing, and strength to those who are ill.

This is also a day in which to give thanks to both our Catholic health care workers and hospitals. We are blessed in this diocese with the presence of several Catholic health care systems: Ascension Health, which operates the Seton Family of Hospitals and Providence Hospital in Waco; and St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan which is part of Catholic Health Initiative. Throughout our American history and continuing today, Catholic health care systems have provided and continue to provide billions of dollars each year in health care to the poor and those in need.

I invite you to participate in the Diocese of Austin's Annual White Mass on Thursday, February 8, 2018, at 6:00 pm at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in Austin.

Finally, I extend my blessings to those who are working in health care, whether in a Catholic health care system or in another hospital system, a nursing home, hospice care facility, physician office, or other health care setting. Please continue to live your faith and witness the presence of the Eucharist with those you encounter. May God bless you and bring comfort and healing to those whom you serve.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe S. Vasquez', written in a cursive style.

Most Reverend Joe S. Vasquez  
Bishop of Austin