

Notas Y Más

February 2022

Community meetings and cultural art events are again taking place virtually due to continuing concerns about COVID. Check websites, FB or call 210-228-0201 for meetings and events currently scheduled. www.esperanzacenter.org



La Peña located at 227 Congress Ave in Austin, TX will hold its 30th Annual *Toma Mi Corazón*

fundraiser on **Saturday, February 12, 2022**, from 12pm-6pm. *Corazón Artwork* will be on exhibit starting Fri., Feb. 4th. **Online bidding (32auctions.com) begins Sat., Feb. 5th at 12pm.** Gallery hours are M-F, 8am-4 pm & Sat., 8am-3pm. Call 512.477.6007 or check www.lapena-austin.org



Catholic Worker House at 626 Nolan provides care, comfort, and support

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chmann immediately cancelled the order so as to avoid "political complications."

But we should also note that the French, Belgian, and Dutch bishops became very vocal critics of the Nazi atrocities. On a letter sent from the Roman Curia to Paris' Cardinal Suhard, on June 11, 1940, French Cardinal Eugene Tisserant, who had pleaded with Pius XII to issue an encyclical advising Catholics to follow their conscience, said the following: "I fear that history will reproach the Holy See with having practiced a policy of selfish convenience and not much else. This is extremely sad, especially for those of us who have lived under Pius XI. Here everyone is confident that, after Rome has been declared an open city, members of the Curia will not suffer any harm. This is a disgrace!" As we can see, Tisserant had witnessed major changes in the last years of Pius XI's pontificate, especially what the Pope said to the Belgian pilgrims and his commissioning of the Jesuit LaFarge to prepare the encyclical *The Unity of the Human Kind*.

Now, after the Second Council of the Vatican (1961-62), Catholic theologians and historians have been able to expose many of the failures of the highest Church authorities and of popes who betrayed the Gospels and "divinized" their power.

Some are still doing today when they insist that "salvation is found only in the Catholic Church" or stick to the nonsense uttered in 1302 by the bull *Unam Sanctam* of Pope Boniface VIII: "We declare, state, define, and pronounce that it is altogether necessary to salvation for every human creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff." Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI spoke strongly against anti-Semitism, but still did not call on all Catholics to engage themselves in the defense and protection of Jews everywhere. Rightfully says the Jewish theologian Abraham Joshua Heschel: "The fate of the Jewish people and the fate of the Bible are intertwined... Any conversation between Christian and Jew in which the abandonment of the other partner's faith is a silent hope must be regarded as offensive to one's religious and human dignity."

The present political conditions of the U.S. call now, more than ever, for all Christians to stand up and live the essential of their faith, which calls for the love of neighbor, no matter what his/her ethnicity, skin color, or place of birth.

BIO: Tarcisio Beal is professor Emeritus of History at the University of the Incarnate Word. [Note: Sources used for this article can be obtained from lavoz@esperanzacenter.org]