

# School tuition donors thanked by grateful students

By YVETTE Y. VALENZUELA  
Special to *The New Vision*

Leading corporate contributors to the Catholic Tuition Support Organization gathered at the Arizona Inn in Tucson last month to hear first-hand from grateful students just how much benefit they are deriving from their educational opportunities.

At the second annual Catholic Tuition Support Organization appreciation luncheon for corporate contributors, Catholic students and others within the diocese joined on May 14 to say thank you to individuals such as Mike Hannley of Bank of Tucson and Steve Lynn of Unisource.

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas began the event with a prayer: "We ask you to help them (students) use the gifts you have given them to the fullest."

Hannley praised the program: "When you look at the opportunity the state of Arizona has provided us, it's really incredible. It's really about the children, it's about their future and it's about how we can give back to the community."

Hannley read a thank-you letter sent to him by a student: "Your contribution is helping me to pursue my goals of a strong education."

Hannley stressed "the deep impact you can make" by giving a student an education of his or her choice.

In September 2006, Arizona gave corpo-



Flanked by Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas and Gracie Quiroz are, from left, Therese Aroz, Diego O'Bolger and Meckenzie Breckenridge.

rations the opportunity to direct their tax liability to a Support Tuition Support Organization of their choice.

Gracie Quiroz, director of the Catholic Tuition Support Organization, said: "We only have three years left for the corporate tax credit; we either encourage legislation to renew, or to extend it. It was designed to start at \$10 million with a 20 percent inflation factor built into it."

Meckenzie Breckenridge, a junior at St. Augustine Catholic High School, said:

"I am just so blessed to have a beautiful campus and school that radiates with the presence of God. I am blessed to have amazing teachers that push us to excel and to exceed in the assignment we are given. Most of all I am blessed to have a positive atmosphere where I can develop my whole person, spiritually, mentally and emotionally."

Therese Aroz, a senior at Immaculate Heart High School, is one of 10 siblings, six of whom attend the same school. She

told the contributors "it is because of what you do that I am able to have all of these opportunities."

Diego O'Bolger, a sixth grader at Sts. Peter and Paul School, switched from public school, noting "it would have been impossible for both my sister and me to be able to attend Sts. Peter and Paul" without donated funds.

"The best gift you can give a child," Quiroz said, "is an education."

## Vocations office revamped, priests appointed

By BERN ZOVISTOSKI  
*The New Vision*

Two priests have been named to lead the diocesan Office of Vocations in a move that Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas said represents "a new direction in our efforts to identify and invite candidates for vocations to the priesthood and religious life."

Bishop Kicanas also announced several pastoral appointments and reassignments that will take effect in the Diocese of Tucson this summer.

Effective July 1, the co-directors of the diocesan Office of Vocations will be Father Mike Bucciarelli, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Benson, and Father Vili Valderrama, pastor of San Felipe de Jesus Parish in Nogales. They will retain their pastor roles at their parishes.

Effective Aug. 1, Father Miguel Mariano will leave the Office of Vocations to become pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Tucson and part-time director of the new diocesan Office of Worship. At St. Joseph's he will succeed Father John Allt, who is will become pastor of St. Rita in the Desert Parish in Vail on July.

Father Bob Wicht, pastor of St. Rita, is retiring this summer after spending 12 years guiding the small parish's transformation into "a large and dynamic community of faith," Bishop Kicanas said.

The establishment of a diocesan Office of Worship and the appointment of Father Miguel as its part-time director "emphasize the importance that we place on liturgies that engage our participation and enhance our worship of God," the Bishop said.

Father Miguel will complete his studies for a master's degree in liturgy this summer before assuming the pastorship at St. Joseph's.

Other appointments made by Bishop Kicanas involve newly ordained priests:

Father Emilio Chapa will serve at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Yuma, while Father Edward Lucero will serve at Yuma's Immaculate Conception Parish.

Father Mario "Ricky" Ordonez will serve as parochial vicar at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Tucson. Father Godfrey Oparaekwe will leave Sts. Peter and Paul to become sacramental minister at St. Patrick Parish in Bisbee.

Father Robert Rodriguez was assigned previously to St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Parish in Tucson.

"I have every confidence," Bishop Kicanas said, "that they will bring new energy and firm commitment to their new communities."

Other appointments:

Father Manuel Fragoso-Carranza will become parish administrator at Sacred

Heart Parish in Parker.

Father Jose Maria Corvera will become parish administrator at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish in Patagonia.

Returning to Tucson is Father William Harry of the Order of Carmelites, who will be assigned to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Priory.

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