

HIGH DESERT CATHOLIC

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SPRING 2025

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare to enter the holy time of Lent, we Catholics have our eyes fixed on Easter while in the midst of a penitential season. The ability to keep our eyes on the Risen Lord is the source of our hope in every moment. Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 as a Jubilee Year entitled Pilgrims of Hope to encourage us to once again fix our gaze on Christ, who is with us, loves us, and forgives us.

In this issue of the *High Desert Catholic*, you can learn more about how to experience the hope-filled graces of the Jubilee year in the Diocese of Reno. Don't miss out on a personal experience of God's mercy during this Holy Year.

One great sign of hope for me was the opportunity to attend the SEEK Conference in Salt Lake City in early January. What a great way to begin this Holy Year! About 100 students and young adults from Reno attended the conference and were impacted by profound experiences of prayer and powerful speakers, including Father Michael Schmitz, and the visible faith of other young Catholics. It was a personal honor to celebrate one of the main Masses at the conference at which 17,000 people participated. I look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit will bring to maturity the graces planted in the hearts of these young adults.

Another sign of hope is the outstanding response to the 2024 One Church collection that was conducted at the Christmas Masses. We have now received more than \$289,565 in donations from the 28 parishes and 6 missions across the diocese. The One Church collection benefits a particular ministry in need, which this year is Our Lady of Wisdom Newman Center at the University of Nevada Reno campus. The funds collected, along with additional end-of-year gifts and an exceptional gift from a charitable foundation, will allow Our Lady of Wisdom Newman Center to establish a Catholic Campus Ministry Endowment with an initial corpus of \$994,204. This endowment will help provide long-term financial stability for Catholic campus ministry. Thank you to everyone who gave to this past year's One Church collection.

Still another sign of hope occurred a few months ago when Pope Francis granted a papal honor to an outstanding lay woman in the Diocese of Reno. Our Holy Father has made Susan Malone (Reno) a Dame of Saint Gregory the Great – one the highest papal honors that can be bestowed. Susan received this honor at the request of Archbishop Timothy Broglio, who oversees the Archdiocese for Military Services. Susan's extensive involvement in national and international humanitarian efforts and Catholic ministries makes her a worthy recipient of this rare honor. We congratulate Susan Malone on this outstanding recognition. Finally, I encourage you to join with me in thanking Mike Quilici for his service to the Diocese of Reno for more than 25 years. Mike recently retired and this issue of the *High Desert Catholic* reviews the impressive ways in which he has made a lasting impact on the Church in northern Nevada during his tenure as Director of Stewardship and Development as well as overseeing property and construction of the many parish and school facilities around the diocese. We will miss Mike, and we wish him well in his well-earned retirement.

With every best wish and an assurance of prayers, I remain, †

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Daniel H. Mueggenborg
Bishop of Reno

**MOST REVEREND
DANIEL HENRY MUEGGENBORG**
is the eighth bishop of the
Catholic Diocese of Reno

Mientras nos preparamos para entrar en el tiempo sagrado de la Cuaresma, los católicos tenemos la mirada puesta en la Pascua, en medio de un tiempo penitencial. La capacidad de mantener la mirada en el Señor resucitado es la fuente de nuestra esperanza en todo momento. El Papa Francisco ha proclamado el año 2025 como Año Jubilar titulado "Peregrinos de Esperanza" para animarnos a fijar una vez más nuestra mirada en Cristo, que está con nosotros, nos ama y nos perdona. En este número de *High Desert Catholic* podrán obtener más información sobre cómo experimentar las gracias llenas de esperanza del Año Jubilar en la Diócesis de Reno. No se pierdan la oportunidad de experimentar personalmente la misericordia de Dios durante este Año Santo.

Para mí una gran señal de esperanza fue la oportunidad de asistir a la Conferencia SEEK en Salt Lake City a principios de enero. ¡Qué gran manera de comenzar este Año Santo! Cien estudiantes y jóvenes adultos de Reno asistieron a la conferencia. Se vieron impactados por profundas experiencias de oración, oradores poderosos -incluido el padre Michael Schmitz- y la fe visible de otros jóvenes católicos. Fue un honor personal celebrar una de las principales Misas de la Conferencia, en la que participaron 17 000 personas. Espero ver cómo el Espíritu Santo hará madurar las gracias plantadas en los corazones de estos jóvenes adultos.

Otro signo de esperanza es la extraordinaria respuesta a la colecta de *Una Sola Iglesia* de 2024, realizada en las Misas de Navidad de 2024. Hemos recibido más de 289 565 dólares en donaciones de las 28 parroquias y 6 misiones de la diócesis. Este año, la colecta de *Una Sola Iglesia* beneficia a un ministerio en particular que lo necesita: Newman Center de Our Lady of Wisdom, en el campus de la Universidad de Nevada, en Reno. Los fondos recaudados, junto con donaciones adicionales de fin de año y una donación excepcional de una fundación benéfica, permitirán al Newman Center de Our Lady of Wisdom establecer una dotación para el ministerio católico universitario con un corpus inicial de 994 204 dólares. Esta dotación ayudará a proporcionar estabilidad financiera a largo plazo para el ministerio católico universitario. Gracias a todos los que donaron a la colecta de *Una Sola Iglesia* del año pasado.

Aun así, hace unos meses se produjo otra señal de esperanza cuando el Papa Francisco concedió un honor papal a una destacada laica de la Diócesis de Reno. Nuestro Santo Padre ha nombrado a Susan Malone (Reno) Dama de San Gregorio Magno, uno de los más altos honores papales que se pueden otorgar. Susan recibió este honor a petición del arzobispo Timothy Broglio, que supervisa la Arquidiócesis para los Servicios Militares. La amplia participación de Susan en los esfuerzos humanitarios nacionales e internacionales y en los ministerios católicos la convierte en una digna receptora de este raro honor. Por favor, únense a mí para felicitar a Susan Malone por este destacado reconocimiento.

Por último, les animo a que se unan a mí para agradecer a Mike Quilici su servicio a la Diócesis de Reno durante más de 25 años. Mike se ha jubilado recientemente, y en este número de *High Desert Catholic* se repasan las impresionantes formas en que ha dejado una huella duradera en la Iglesia del norte de Nevada durante su mandato como director de Administración y Desarrollo, además de supervisar la propiedad y construcción de las numerosas instalaciones tanto parroquiales como escolares de la diócesis. Echaremos de menos a Mike y le deseamos lo mejor en su merecida jubilación.

Con mis mejores deseos y la seguridad de mis oraciones, atentamente, †

Suyo en Cristo,
Rvdmo. Daniel H. Mueggenborg
Obispo de Reno



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HDC/Diocese of Reno
290 S. Arlington Ave. #200
Reno, NV 89501-1713

HIGH DESERT CATHOLIC

The magazine of the
Catholic Diocese of Reno

SPRING 2025
VOLUME 11: ISSUE 4

www.highdesertcatholic.org

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High Desert Catholic (USPS 14250) is
published quarterly by the Catholic Bishop
of Reno, 290 S. Arlington
Avenue, Suite 200, Reno, NV 89501-1713.
Periodicals postage paid at Reno, NV and
additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
High Desert Catholic, 290 S. Arlington
Avenue, Reno, NV 89501-1713



Attendees at the annual Diocesan Conference held in January 2025.



Colonel Susan Malone receives papal honor.



Students attending SEEK 2025.

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Colonel Susan Roley Malone

A CALL TO SERVE IN FAITH

BY: JENNIFER MARIE PELFINI

In January of 2025, retired USMC Colonel Susan Roley Malone received news from Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg and Archbishop Timothy Broglio that she had become a recipient of the pontifical honor of Dame of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Francis. Colonel Malone is the second person from the Diocese of Reno to receive this honor, and the fourth in the state of Nevada. Her recognition originates from the Archdiocese of the Military for the USA, in Washington, DC. For Susan, this distinction is a testament of her love for the Lord and her service to Him and the Catholic faith.



Susan with Bishop Mueggenborg receiving honors at the Diocese of Reno Volunteer Appreciation Banquet April 2024

Susan's path is one that is courageous and humble. She is the embodiment of compassion, charitable deeds, and sense of duty. These qualifications can be best used to define her career as one of the first two women agents to serve in the FBI, a military leader in the US Marine Corps (USMC) for 39 years, a United Nations diplomat appointed to the War Crimes Tribunal, a federal civil servant, and in her remarkable vigorous retirement. Her career and retirement as a military leader, civil servant, humanitarian, and philanthropist all have served the Catholic faith.

Career and Faith Life

Susan was reared as a Presbyterian by her father, a Marine Corps pilot, and mother, an educator and businesswoman. Susan met and married her Catholic husband Colonel George Malone while they served in the USMC. In attending Mass with her husband, she appreciated the reverence of the Catholic Mass and the sacraments. While in military service, she identified areas she could unite her passion for country with her love for the Lord. Whether it was during a tour duty, an undercover assignment or an intelligence post, Susan found a way to serve God. In 2000, her conversion

to Catholicism became complete through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), and she received the sacraments for which she had yearned. Many years later, Susan and George renewed their sacred marriage vows in the Holy Land in Cana.

Susan's career and mission in life exemplifies hope. Her service to God and country demonstrates a progressive timeline of contributions for the greater good of country and the world. Upon retirement in Washington, DC, Susan chose to build upon her faith to broaden the areas she could serve with her military background.

She graduated from the Theological College Institute on Matrimonial Tribunal Practice at the Catholic University of America. She applied this education to a volunteer role working with the Archdiocese of the Military, serving in a tribunal where she worked to investigate and support the complex annulments for military personnel. She also served in other areas of trust and discernment for the archdiocese.

Life of Service

While in DC, she supported veterans, in many different capacities, and her Catholic church as an extraordinary minister of Communion and lector. She served on the Diocese of Arlington Review Board for over six years and served as a Special Auditor for the Diocese of Toledo. She continued to serve in these capacities after she and George decided to permanently relocate to Nevada in 2016. She also now serves as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for the state of Nevada. But you will also find her mentoring students locally through the Nevada National Security Forum Youth program, focused on educating students on civility. She is a mem-



Susan during Investiture as a Dame of St. Gregory the Great, March 2025

ber of the Advisory Board for the State Veterans Home and other state programs. She's a parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral and assists the diocese in various capacities. She does not intend to slow her pace.

Servant Leader

Susan has gone beyond local and regional service. She is a Dame of Malta, the order of knighthood where she has led pilgrimages to Lourdes, supported various programs for the poor, sick, and needy. As a Dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher, she protects, honors and supports the Franciscans in any way she can to ensure the most sacred sites in the Holy Land are revered, secure, and maintained. Wherever she sees an opportunity to share her experience and skills to improve the life of someone else, she will answer the call.

"I am honored to be a servant of God. We are called to service, no matter who we are. It can be something as simple as welcoming people into Mass, especially new guests. Meeting someone you do not know with a kind heart and smile makes a big difference in them seeing Jesus in you. I have always had a deep need and sense of fulfillment in giving to others. People deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. I am grateful for all the service I've been able to do because I realize that that is the gift from God in my life as a Catholic."

To spend any time with Susan is a gift of history, love of country, and a reminder of the hope in serving God.

Last year, Susan received an honor at the Diocesan Annual Award Banquet, and her story was featured in the Fall 2024 issue of *High Desert Magazine*. For more on Susan, view the website for the press release and more on her Investiture as a Dame of St. Gregory the Great. ✝