



Trinity Episcopal Church
909 Avenue D
Marble Falls, TX 78654

02/06/2023

Dear Friends,
Blessings to you in this New Year and during this holy season of Epiphany!

As we begin 2023, I want to thank you for your generous gift to the shattered town of Uvalde following last spring's massacre at Robb Elementary School. The horror is still difficult to contemplate as the community continues down a long road to healing and recovery. But healing is happening, thanks be to God, and I want to offer you a glimpse into the ways your generosity supports the families and student survivors; the ministries of the clergy and congregation of St. Philip's Episcopal Church; and the establishment of the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas in Uvalde.

The outpouring of support—prayer, financial and material—from throughout the Diocese of West Texas and across the United States has been heartfelt, a light shining on a darkened community, and a witness to the generosity of people responding to a great need. As of last week, more than \$128,600 has been donated to the Diocese, all of which has been sent to Uvalde. Because of generous donors like you, more than \$600,000 in household bills have been paid through Catholic Charities, the Uvalde Fire Department and our Diocese. In the immediate aftermath of the mass killing, your support enabled the distribution of grocery and gas cards directly to grief-stricken families who were unable to return to work.

The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas (CBCST), based in San Antonio, arrived shortly after the shooting, providing comfort, grief counseling, "grief camps" and enrichment programs for children and adults in safe spaces at St. Philip's Church and elsewhere in Uvalde. All services are provided at no cost to the clients.

Recognizing that recovery and healing from this trauma will take years, CBCST recently entered into an agreement with St. Philip's to renovate and use a church building for "as long as necessary." The building is free-standing on church premises, and after renovation, will include counseling rooms, a large living room, art therapy rooms and a courtyard. A labyrinth built by the parish is already in place behind this building. Construction is underway and should be completed in May. The Center plans to employ six full-time staff and professional grief counselors, and make good use of trained volunteers. Support services at the Center will be available for children ages 3 through 23 and their families. The Center will also provide outreach services to area schools.

Much has been done, thanks to people like you who have given so generously. Much remains to be done, and the Diocese of West Texas remains committed to participating in whatever ways are possible, by God's grace, to the healing and rebuilding of lives and the life of the community.

May the Lord continue to bless and keep you.

David Reed
Bishop of West Texas

