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August 17, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: All Media
From: Rachel Martinez, rmartinez@catholiclubbock.org 806-792-3943, Ext. 207, 214-562-5344
Re: **Texas Supreme Court Justice, Eva Guzman available for media appearances prior to October 3 Red Mass**

The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lubbock, Inc. will host Texas Supreme Court Justice, Eva Guzman as keynote speaker at their annual Judicial Red Mass.

Justice Guzman has made herself available for media appearances the day prior to the event, Monday, October 2, and plans to visit Texas Tech Law School Monday as well.

With a new location, format and time, the Red Mass still remains open to people of all faith traditions who have a concern for peace and justice. The Red Mass will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Kent Hance Chapel followed by a cocktails at 7 p.m. and seated dinner at 7:30 p.m. with remarks from Justice Guzman at McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center. Admission to dinner is \$20 and includes cocktails, hors d'Oeuvres and dinner. Student ticket price is \$10. Must RSVP by September 20. Now in its 17th year, the event is sponsored by The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lubbock, Inc. and generous members of the legal community.

The first recorded Red Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral of Paris in 1245. It received its name from the fact that the celebrants wore red vestments, and the Lord High Justices were robed in brilliant scarlet. Today the tradition is carried on throughout the world including in Washington DC, where the Supreme Court will herald the opening of its year on October 2.

The Most Reverend Robert M. Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock, will serve as the principal celebrant for the Red Mass. Those in the entrance processional include federal, state, county and municipal judges from the 25 counties in the Diocese of Lubbock.

Dress is business attire with red accents for both men and women. More information is available at www.catholicfoundationlubbock.org/redmass or by calling (806) 792-3943, extension 207.

About Justice Eva Guzman

Eva Guzman joined the Supreme Court of Texas in 2009, making history as the first Latina to sit on the state's highest civil court. The next year, the people of Texas elected her to a full term. And Eva Guzman became the first Hispanic woman elected to statewide office in Texas. A proud Texan, Eva Guzman strives for excellence in her work on our state's highest civil court. Justice Guzman believes "a judge's highest duty is to uphold the Constitution."

Before taking her seat on the high court, Justice Guzman served at two other levels of the state judiciary, authoring hundreds of published opinions as a justice on the Houston-based Fourteenth Court of Appeals and disposing of thousands of cases as judge of the 309th District Court in Harris County. Now in her sixteenth year on the bench, Justice Guzman consistently receives high marks in judicial evaluation polls as well as accolades from professional, civic, and law enforcement groups. Her honors and awards are many.

As the Supreme Court of Texas Liaison to the Texas Access to Justice Commission, Justice Guzman works hard to expand access to justice in civil legal matters for low-income Texans. She also chairs the high court's Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth, and Families, working with leaders across the state to improve outcomes for Texas's most vulnerable children and families. In addition to bringing big vision to this important work, Justice Guzman lends leadership and fresh ideas to other institutions within the legal community:

- Board of Trustees for The Center for American and International Law
- Duke University School of Law Board of Visitors
- Board of Trustees of South Texas College of Law
- Executive Committee, Appellate Judges Conference-American Bar Association Judicial Division
- Advisor to the American Law Institute

Before taking the bench in 1999, Justice Guzman enjoyed a successful ten-year legal career in Houston. She holds a B.B.A. from The University of Houston, a law degree from South Texas College of Law, and an LL.M from Duke University School of Law.

Married for over 25 years, Justice Guzman and her husband are parents to one daughter, who recently graduated from Harvard University.

The Red Mass Tradition

The first recorded Red Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral of Paris in 1245. From there, it spread to most European countries. The tradition began in England around 1310, during the reign of Edward II. The Mass was celebrated at Westminster Abbey and served as the official opening of the Judicial Year. It received its name from the fact that the celebrants wore red vestments, and the Lord High Justices were robed in brilliant scarlet.

In the United States, the first Red Mass was held in 1877 and today is observed in many cities throughout our country world including in Washington DC, where the Supreme Court heralds the opening of its year on the Sunday before the first Monday in October. Wherever it is celebrated, the Red Mass promotes the unity of the

judiciary and the legal profession.

The first Diocese of Lubbock Red Mass was held in 2001 and has continued to grow in participation and stature with each passing year.

Diocese of Lubbock Red Mass Speakers

Note: Titles are as of the date each speaker addressed the Red Mass.

- 2001 Emilio M. Garza, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- 2002 Wallace B. Jefferson, Justice, Texas Supreme Court
- 2003 Anne M Burke, Justice, Illinois Appellate Court (now an Illinois Supreme Court Justice)
- 2004 Alma L. Lopez, Chief Justice, Fourth Court of Appeals
- 2005 Walter Huffman, Dean, Texas Tech University School of Law
- 2006 Jay C. Zainey, Judge, U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana
- 2007 Jane J. Boyle, Judge, U. S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
- 2008 George P. Kazen, Judge, U. S. District Court, Southern District of Texas
- 2009 Catherine M. Stone, Chief Justice, Fourth Court of Appeals
- 2010 Ann Crawford McClure, Chief Justice, Eighth Court of Appeals
- 2011 Ronald J. Rychlak, Professor of Law, University of Mississippi School of Law
Guest Homilist Most Reverend Cirilo Flores, DD, JD, Auxiliary Bishop of Orange
- 2012 Sidney Allen Fitzwater Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
- 2013 Phil Johnson, Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
- 2014 Most Reverend John Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield
- 2015 Justice Gina M. Benavides, Thirteenth Court of Appeals
- 2016 Kevin Patrick Yeary, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Judge

About The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lubbock, Inc.

Since its beginnings in Lubbock, The Judicial Red Mass has been sponsored by The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lubbock. The foundation exists to help Catholics live out the sacred mission of the Church by financially supporting the spiritual, educational and social needs of our Catholic community.

The non-profit organization was first created in 1987 by the Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, D. D., the first Bishop of Lubbock. The foundation is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of both lay and clergy leaders, with a managing director and [the whole-hearted endorsement of Most Rev. Robert M. Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock.](#)

In 1998, the Catholic Foundation was incorporated, and has grown to more than \$3 million in managed assets through annual memberships, end-of-the-year giving, endowment funds, annuities, life insurance policies, bequests and investments. It provides more than \$115,000 annually in grants to the ministries of the Diocese of Lubbock, as well as its mission parishes, schools and Catholic organizations. For more information, contact 806-792-3943, ext. 207, or visit www.catholicfoundationlubbock.org.

