

# Bishop Thomas visits Holy Child Mission in Caliente for Confirmation



Within the Diocese of Las Vegas's boundaries and far beyond the lights of Las Vegas lies a treasure trove of natural beauty and friendly rural communities. Among them is the small city of Caliente, named for the hot springs that flow from the base of the mountain.



On March 20, Bishop Thomas drove on Nevada's Great Basin Highway, one of the roads lesser-traveled in his diocese, up the marshy Pahrnagat Valley, across the vast Delamar Valley, and through the Delamar Mountains to Holy Child Mission in Caliente for Confirmation. Bishop Thomas said, "Holy Child is one of the hidden gems in the Diocese of Las Vegas.

The small parish is a Mission of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Ely. Holy Child is served by Deacon Patrick FitzSimons, who provides the parish's daily pastoral needs with the assistance of family and volunteers. The enthusiastic parish team offers religious education and sacramental preparation for first communion, confirmation, and RCIA. Bishop Thomas, moved by their commitment to ministry and mission work, said, "I am profoundly grateful to Deacon Patrick FitzSimons, his wife Millie, his son Sean, volunteers, extended family for the countless ways they pour life out in service to this faith community." Once a month, the pastor drives the 268 miles round trip from Ely to celebrate Mass and give pastoral support to the Mission. Bishop Thomas continued, "So too, I commend Father Lourdes for his monthly visits to the parish for the celebration of Holy Mass.



Holy Child Mission serves greater Lincoln County, known for the community spirit and celebrations of Caliente, Panaca, and the county seat Pioche. During the Summer months, many Catholic families escape the heat and traffic of Clark County by heading North to Lincoln County, home of natural wonders and recreational opportunities. A place where people are welcoming and friendly. Holy Child is no different with generational families engaged in parish life welcome visitors with a smile and a hello. Bishop Thomas experiencing the community's generous hospitality and faithfulness, said, "I was the beneficiary of the community's warmth and welcome, and was immediately impressed by the depth and strength I found in the faith of the Confirmation Candidates." Upon deeper reflection, he said, "Already, I look forward to a return visit to Caliente, and ask God to bless the community abundantly with health and safety until I return again."