

San Juan Diego Catholic Regional High School Board of Trustees



**Asa Cozad
Chairman**

Grandson of one of JDA's founding board members, Celine Cozad, Asa is a parishioner of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. He is a member of the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. Asa went to high school at Texas Military Institute and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He worked in the engineering field for 10 years, including 4 years as VP of O'Brien Resources in Shreveport, LA. He returned to the RGV in August, 2018 and is the owner of El Rucio Consulting and Cozad Resources.



**Sonia Candanoza
Vice Chairman**

Sonia Candanoza is a parishioner of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mission. Her two children are currently enrolled in Catholic Schools. She has been an active member of Catholic Schools. She served as the PTO Treasurer and Secretary at OLG School in Mission. She was an active member of the Turkeyfest Silent Auction Committee at St. Joseph Catholic School in Edinburg. In addition, she has served various roles at Our Lady of Sorrows.



**George Cardenas
Treasurer**

George Cardenas is the Regional President for Vantage Bank Texas, responsible for Commercial Lending in the Rio Grande Valley, Laredo, Houston, and El Paso. He joined the Bank in 2003 and brings over 20 years of lending experience. In addition to his role at Vantage Bank, he serves on several boards and committees. They are a Board Member of the Boys and Girls Club of Edinburg, a Board Member of RioPlex, an Advisory Board Member of the Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship at UTRGV, and the Chairman of the Environmental and Landfill Board of Edinburg. Additionally, he has participated with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and was honored with the Visionary of the Year and Member of the Year awards for 2024 and 2025. His family also attends Our Lady of Sorrows Church.



**Raul Cabaza, III
Advisory Counsel**

The Area President of HUB International Texas, Inc., Raul is a Certified Insurance Counselor specializing in insurance placement for schools/colleges, manufacturing, financial institutions, and private real estate portfolios. Dedicated to serving others, his many civic and church interests past and present include Su Casa de Esperanza, Fountain of Mercy Ministries, Knights of Columbus, and the ACTS Retreat Movement.



Sr. Sheila Carney

Born and raised in Utica, New York, Sr. Sheila graduated from the Utica Catholic Academy before receiving a BA in Education from St Joseph College and a Masters Degree in Teaching of Math from the University of Detroit. She entered the Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg, MD. As a veteran educator, Sr. Sheila taught math and PE as well as having many roles with the school including athletic director, coach, and computer coordinator. She additionally has served as a principal and worked in many schools around the country. After moving to Evansville, IN to serve as provincial secretary, the provinces merged, and Sr. Sheila moved to Mission in 2011 to help at Juan Diego Academy. In her spare time she enjoys reading, watching sports, and doing puzzles of various kinds.

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Lorena Castillo
Advisory Counsel

Lorena Castillo is a partner in the accounting firm of Negrete & Castillo, L.L.P. She is a board member with Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. and the Love Builds Hope Foundation which serves the Diocese of Brownsville. She has served as president for the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, RGV Chapter, Junior League of McAllen and the Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo & Starr Counties. She is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish where she has served on the finance council, taught CCD and been involved with the ACTS ministry



Eddie Castilleja

Eddie Castilleja is a dedicated member of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in McAllen, and brings with him over 20 years of leadership experience in the retail sector. He currently serves in a leadership role at Barnes & Noble, where he continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to customer service, operational excellence, and team development. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Castilleja has been an active advocate for community involvement. He previously served on the Board of Directors for the United Way of South Texas, a role that deepened his engagement with local initiatives aimed at improving the lives of families and children across the region. Mr. Castilleja has a passion for youth development and community service and admires Juan Diego Academy's mission and dedication to the spiritual and academic formation of young people.



Jose Luis Contreras

Jose Luis Contreras, Managing Partner of North Park Lexus, is a product of Central Catholic High School and is a great supporter of Catholic education and other RGV community initiatives. After graduating with a BBA from the University of Notre Dame, Jose Luis continued his studies, earning his MBA from the University of Texas @ San Antonio. As Co-President of the Notre Dame Alumni Club of the Rio Grande Valley, Jose has helped reignite connections and support systems for prospective and current students, as well as create service opportunities in RGV. He also serves as a member of the advisory board for Our Lady of Sorrows School. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Club of Pharr/San Juan and VADA (Valley Automobile Dealers Association).



Robert A. Dyer
Advisory Counsel

Robert "Bob" Dyer is President and CEO of Growers Select Produce Inc, a company that grows, packs, ships and markets watermelons grown in Mexico and the U.S. since 1987. He and his wife, Christina, are active members of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in McAllen. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University in 1983 and is a member of Knights of Columbus. His hobbies include organic gardening, enjoying grandchildren, and cooking. A third generation Valley native, Bob Dyer grew up south of Pharr and speaks fluent Spanish.



Beatriz Gonzalez

A proud parent of three children, all of whom attended Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School. Bea Gonzalez is an active mother, businesswoman, and member of the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Community, where she serves as president of the school's PTO, and member of the Advisory and Development Council. Bea has also participated on the ACTS Core Team, and as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. In the community, she is active in the McAllen Child Study Club and with the Girl Scouts.

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Rosario Somohano Guerra

Throughout her career, Rosie Guerra played a vital role managing her husband's OB/GYN office, demonstrating her dedication, organizational skills, and commitment to serving others. As a lifelong Catholic and devoted parishioner of St. Paul Catholic Church in Mission, Rosie has generously dedicated her time and talents to a variety of ministries and committees within the church community. Her extensive involvement includes serving on the Religious Education Board, volunteering in the CCD program, and participating actively in the Altar Society and Damas Catolicas, where she notably served as President. Rosie's commitment to her faith is further reflected in her roles as a Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Adorer, and as an ACTS Core Board Member. In 2019, she served as Director of the Women's ACTS Retreat, exemplifying her leadership and spiritual guidance. Even in retirement, Rosie continues to be a passionate and active member of her parish, embodying the values of faith, service, and community that are at the heart of Juan Diego Academy.



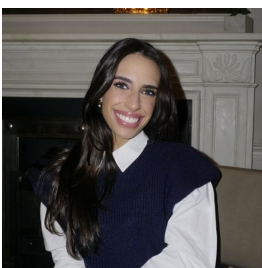
Michael Hernandez

Michael Hernandez brings over 26 years of dedicated professional experience in the civil engineering industry, specializing in water and wastewater engineering. Throughout his career, he has played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of sustainable water and wastewater infrastructure projects across the South Texas region, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship and community well-being. A passionate advocate for Catholic education, he firmly believes in its transformative power to cultivate not only academic excellence but also moral integrity and spiritual growth. Alongside his wife, he has been actively involved in supporting the Catholic schools attended by their daughter, recognizing the vital importance of these institutions in nurturing future leaders grounded in faith and strong values. Mr. Hernandez currently serves on several other boards, where he continues to contribute his expertise and leadership. His dedication to service and his commitment to the mission of Catholic education make him a valuable addition to the Board of Trustees.



Fr. Gregory T. Labus

Rev. Gregory T. Labus was ordained a priest for service in the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville on May 27, 2006. He has served as assistant to the rector at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle- National Shrine, parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception of Mary Church in Harlingen, parish administrator at St. Mary's Church in Santa Rosa, and pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Mercedes. On May 18, 2012, Father Labus returned to his home parish, St. Joseph Catholic Church, as pastor of the parish and school. He was the first new pastor in more than 16 years, proceeding the death of Msgr. Robert Maher, who was Pastor since November 16, 1995. Father Labus plans to continue to highlight the importance of music to the liturgy, which is sustained by a strong level of participation by the people.



Haley Seiba

Haley Seiba is proud to be the first alumna of Juan Diego Academy to serve on the Board of Trustees, bringing her passion for education and dedication to the JDA community full circle. A 2016 graduate of JDA, Haley distinguished herself as a committed student leader, serving as Senior Class President and actively participating in the National Honor Society and Student Council. Following her graduation from JDA, Haley attended Texas A&M University, where she continued her leadership journey as a member of Aggie Women in Business and Alpha Delta Pi sorority. Her professional career began at AT&T, where she spent 3.5 years in fiber sales before transitioning to a role in Global Sales with American Airlines in Dallas, TX. Haley's commitment to excellence, leadership experience, and deep connection to Juan Diego Academy make her a valuable asset to the Board as the school continues to grow and thrive.