



Central California CATHOLIC LIFE

SIEMPRE ADELANTE
KEEP MOVING FORWARD



Official Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno



WELCOME OUR NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS

Rev. Jose Maria Carrillo • Rev. Arturo Cisneros,
Rev. Jorge Adrian Cruz Paez • Rev. James Tasy,
Rev. Rene Vargas



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JUST KEEPING GOING

Sr. Rosalie Rohrer I.H.M is without a doubt one of the most well-known employees within the Diocese of Fresno. Sr. Rosalie is a vibrant character with a plethora of life experience. Not one thing comes out of the Chancery Office without Sr. Rosalie proofreading it, partially because of her sharp eye and attention to detail, but mostly because she is not afraid to point out a mistake or how things can be improved. Because Sr. Rosalie knows everything going on around the diocese and because of her attention to detail and honesty, she has been the editor of the Diocesan Magazine for many years now.

On one of her co-workers birthday's I asked Sr. Rosalie to state some advice she would give to her younger counterpart in which she said rather abruptly, "Just keep going". On her Religious Anniversary which is today, June 5th, in which she celebrates 58 years, I asked her for some wisdom and after a chuckle she said abruptly again, "Just keep going".

Sr. Rosalie, thank you for keeping me and everyone else at the Diocese on their toes. You are so valuable to the Diocese. To many more years of you Just Keeping Going!

Chandler Marquez
Director of Communications



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**A LETTER FROM
MOST REVEREND
JOSEPH V. BRENNAN, D.D.
BISHOP, DIOCESE OF FRESNO**



At the most recent celebration of Confirmation there this year, I was overwhelmed by the goodness of the people



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MY DEAR ONES,

After a wet and mild Spring season followed by an out of the ordinary *cold* snap during the first week of May, some of us might actually be yearning for a return to the *ordinary* and *normal* patterns in our weather and even in our daily lives. If we have not done so already, it will not be long before we start to complain about the heat again, all part of our getting back to the *ordinary* and the familiar in our lives. But I want to share something about the **extraordinary** things in our lives here in the Diocese.

It was just a few months ago that over 3,000 of us gathered for the consecration of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Visalia. It is already filling to capacity on the weekends and served as the Church for our annual Chrism Mass right before Holy Week this year. A wonderful Conference entitled 'I Thirst' was also hosted there as part of our diocesan observance of the Eucharistic Revival and the Church again was filled with several thousand participants then as well. Fr. Alex Chavez, his team and parishioners are to be commended. Extraordinary? You bet it is! But wait! There's more! Sounds like an infomercial, doesn't it?

On a beautiful Monday afternoon, May 22nd to be precise, yet another Church was dedicated and consecrated here in the Diocese of Fresno, St. Rita's Church in Tulare. Simpler in form and smaller in scope than the Church in Visalia, it is a worship space that nonetheless will accommodate 1,600 worshipers at a time. At the most recent celebration of Confirmation there this year I was overwhelmed by the goodness of the people, the unity in the midst of the diverse cultural and linguistic groups, and the beautiful, joyful and inspiring dedication of their pastor, Fr. Ivan Hernandez Melchor.



St. Rita's Church in Tulare, CA was dedicated and consecrated on May 22, 2023.

Many of you took advantage of the recently concluded pilgrimages that were held at every one of our official Shrines here in the Diocese. It was absolutely inspiring and heartwarming to me during that pilgrimage time for the Eucharistic Revival when at all kinds of other events and liturgies, people would come up to me and tell me about their own pilgrimage experience made possible by our little **Caminos**.

Finally, perhaps the most extraordinary event of all this year was the ordination of **five** new priests for service to the People of God here in our Diocese. Strange as it may sound, I almost feel like a very proud Father to these fine, young men. In fact, that is not a bad image at all for what I hope my relationship is and will remain for them, a good spiritual Father. If you had the

privilege of seeing them on the day of their Priestly ordination, you would have seen what I saw, young, courageous, joyful and inspiring men who in their own way will also become spiritual Fathers to many of our faithful for many years to come.

Extraordinary? Without a doubt!

In Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph V Brennan, D.D.
Bishop, Diocese of Fresno



UNA CARTA DEL OBISPO **JOSEPH V. BRENNAN, D.D.** OBISPO, DIÓCESIS DE FRESNO

QUERIDOS MÍOS,

Después de una primavera húmeda y templada, seguida por una ola de frío fuera de lo común durante la primera semana de mayo, algunos de nosotros podríamos estar anhelando volver a lo ordinario y a los patrones normales en nuestro clima e incluso en nuestras vidas cotidianas. Si aún no lo hemos hecho, no pasará mucho tiempo antes de que empecemos a quejarnos de nuevo del calor, todo como parte de nuestro regreso a lo ordinario y familiar en nuestras vidas. Pero quiero compartir algo sobre las cosas extraordinarias en nuestras vidas aquí en la Diócesis.

Hace solo unos meses más de 3,000 de nosotros nos reunimos para la consagración de la Iglesia de San Carlos Borromeo en Visalia. Ya se está llenando a capacidad los fines de semana y sirvió como Iglesia para nuestra Misa Crismal anual justo antes de la Semana Santa de este año. Una maravillosa conferencia titulada 'Tengo sed' también se celebró allí como parte de la observancia diocesana del Avivamiento Eucarístico y la Iglesia también se llenó nuevamente con varios miles de participantes.

El Padre Alex Chávez, su equipo y sus feligreses son dignos de elogios ¿Extraordinario? Claro que sí. Pero ¡esperen! Aún hay más. Suena como infomercial, ¿verdad?

Una hermosa tarde del lunes, 22 de mayo para ser precisos, otra iglesia fue dedicada y consagrada aquí en la Diócesis de Fresno, la Iglesia de Santa Rita en Tulare. Más sencilla en su forma y más pequeña en su alcance que la Iglesia en Visalia, es un espacio de culto que, sin embargo, podría acomodar a 1,600 fieles a la vez. En la más reciente celebración de Confirmación ahí este año me sentí abrumado por la bondad de la gente, la unidad en medio de la diversidad cultural y grupos lingüísticos, y la hermosa, alegre e inspiradora dedicación de su párroco, el Padre Iván Hernandez Melchor.



*Casi me siento
como un
padre muy
orgullosa de
estos excelentes
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Cinco sacerdotes nuevos fueron ordenados en 27 Mayo 2023 en la iglesia San Carlos Borromeo, Visalia, CA.

Muchos de ustedes aprovecharon las peregrinaciones recientemente concluidas que se llevaron a cabo en cada uno de nuestros Santuarios oficiales aquí en la Diócesis. Fue absolutamente inspirador y reconfortante para mí durante ese tiempo de peregrinaciones para el Avivamiento Eucarístico cuando en todo tipo de eventos y liturgias, la gente se me acercaba y me contaba su propia experiencia de peregrinación hecha posible por nuestros pequeños Caminos.

Por último, este año quizá el acontecimiento más extraordinario de todos ha sido la ordenación de cinco nuevos sacerdotes al servicio del pueblo de Dios aquí en nuestra Diócesis. Por extraño que parezca, casi me siento como un padre muy orgulloso de estos excelentes jóvenes. De hecho, esa no es una mala imagen en absoluto por lo que espero que mi relación sea y siga siendo para ellos, la de un buen Padre espiritual.

Si tuvieron el privilegio de verlos el día de su Ordenación Sacerdotal, hubieran visto lo que yo vi, jóvenes, valientes, alegres e inspiradores que, a su manera, se convertirán también en padres espirituales para muchos de nuestros fieles por muchos años por venir.

En Cristo,

Joseph V Brennan, D.D.
Obispo, Diócesis de Fresno

DIVINE DEDICATION

Bishop Armando Ochoa Brings a Strong Spiritual Presence to Valley Children's Hospital

Valley Children's Hospital in Madera, California, is a wonderful healthcare facility filled with great doctors, nurses and volunteers who strive to serve the Central Valley by providing quality healthcare to children.

Valley Children's is filled with volunteers from all walks of life and one of them happens to be our very own Bishop Emeritus Armando Ochoa, former Bishop of the Diocese of Fresno. Bishop Ochoa volunteers at Valley Children's at least twice a week, providing Spiritual Care for families.

"One of the reasons I went to Children's Hospital was because we didn't have a Catholic presence [in the spiritual care department]," Bishop Ochoa states. After retirement, Bishop was looking for a ministry he could step into, and Valley Children's was the lucky recipient of his dedicated ministry.

Valley Children's represents the demographics of the Central Valley in that a good portion of the hospital's patients, families and visitors are Hispanic Catholics, with a large portion of them being farmworkers. The Catholic Community is strongly represented throughout the Valley Children's staff. Many of the staff members know Bishop Ochoa and a few were even confirmed by him.

"Some of the special and rewarding moments are when they find out you're a Catholic priest and you're praying with them, connecting with them... connecting them to the Catholic faith in a non-threatening way," Bishop Ochoa describes. Bishop Ochoa exemplifies evangelization through his ministry at Valley Children's. Due to the Catholic population at Valley Children's, Bishop Ochoa was asked to provide a regularly

scheduled Mass for families at the hospital.

Although this ministry is rewarding, there are difficult times. There are many moments when Bishop is counseling and praying with families who are going through tough times or having to make hard decisions. Bishop Ochoa recalls one of those difficult times when he participated in a Guard of Honor, which is when hospital workers and volunteers silently line the pathway from the intensive care unit to the operating room as the organ donor is wheeled to the operation room for organ recovery. This process can be emotionally difficult when the donor is

on life support and is donating an organ as a final contribution during their earthly life.

Bishop Ochoa says his enjoyment for parish/ministry work outweighs the mourning of the difficult times. "You can't take the parish priest out of this bishop, you know," Bishop Ochoa playfully remarks.

He further explains that he has always enjoyed bringing communion to the sick. As a deacon during his summer diaconate before being ordained, that was his focus. "In the last 30 years of being a Bishop, you don't always have the chance to [be a

homebound or hospital bound Eucharistic Minister], so it's really touching and nice now [to be in this ministry]." Bishop Ochoa explains.

Bishop Ochoa's volunteer work under Spiritual Care involves sacraments, confessions, liturgy, confessions – including emergency baptisms and anointings. For more information on Spiritual Care at Valley Children's Hospital, please visit valleychildrens.org/patients-and-families/support-services/spiritual.

“You can't take the parish priest out of this bishop”

DEDICACIÓN DIVINA

El Obispo Armando Ochoa aporta una fuerte presencia espiritual al Hospital Valley Children's

El Hospital Valley Children's en Madera, California, es un maravilloso centro de atención médica que cuenta con excelentes doctores, enfermeras y voluntarios que se esfuerzan por servir al Valle Central brindando atención médica de calidad a los niños.

Valley Children's cuenta con voluntarios de todos los ámbitos y uno de ellos es nuestro propio Obispo Emérito Armando Ochoa, anterior obispo de la Diócesis de Fresno. El Obispo Ochoa es voluntario en el Hospital de los Niños al menos dos veces por semana, brindando atención espiritual a las familias.

“Una de las razones por las que fui al Hospital fue porque no teníamos una presencia católica [en el departamento de atención espiritual]”, declara el Obispo Ochoa. Después de jubilarse, el Obispo estaba buscando un ministerio al que pudiera dedicarse y Valley Children's fue el afortunado receptor de su dedicado ministerio.

El Hospital de los Niños representa la demografía del Valle Central ya que una buena parte de los pacientes, familiares y visitantes del hospital son católicos hispanos, y una gran parte de ellos son trabajadores agrícolas. La Comunidad Católica está fuertemente representada a través del personal del Hospital. Muchos de los miembros del personal conocen al Obispo Ochoa y algunos incluso fueron confirmados por él.

“Algunos de los momentos más especiales y gratificantes son cuando se enteran de que eres un sacerdote católico y rezas con ellos, conectas con ellos...los conectas con la fe católica de una manera no amenazante” describe el Obispo Ochoa. El Obispo Ochoa ejemplifica la evangelización a través de su ministerio en Valley Children's.

Debido a la población católica en Valley Children's, se le pidió al Obispo Ochoa que ofreciera una Misa programada regularmente para las familias en el hospital. El Obispo Ochoa celebra Misa cada viernes a las 2pm y se transmite en vivo para las familias que no pueden asistir personalmente debido a problemas de salud. Aunque este ministerio es gratificante, hay tiempos difíciles. Hay muchos momentos en los que el obispo aconseja y ora con las familias que están pasando por situaciones complicadas o que deben tomar decisiones difíciles. El Obispo Ochoa recuerda uno de esos momentos difíciles cuando participó en una Guardia de Honor, es decir cuando trabajadores y voluntarios del hospital se alinearon silenciosamente en el camino de

la unidad de cuidados intensivos hasta la sala de operaciones mientras el donante de órganos fue llevado en silla de ruedas a la sala de operaciones para la recuperación de órganos. Este proceso puede ser emocionalmente difícil cuando el donador está conectado a respiración asistida y está donando un órgano como contribución final durante su vida terrenal.

El Obispo Ochoa dice que su alegría en el trabajo parroquial/ministerial supera el duelo de los momentos difíciles. “A este obispo no se le puede quitar lo párroco”

comenta juguetonamente el Obispo Ochoa.

Además, explica que siempre le ha gustado llevar la comunión a los enfermos. Como Diacono durante su diaconado de verano antes de ser ordenado ese era su enfoque. “En los últimos 30 años de ser obispo, no siempre tiene la oportunidad de [ser Ministro Eucarístico para los confinados en casa o en el hospital], por lo que realmente es conmovedor y agradable ahora [estar en este ministerio]”. Explica el Obispo Ochoa.

El trabajo voluntario del Obispo Ochoa bajo el Cuidado Espiritual involucra sacramentos, confesiones, liturgia, - incluyendo bautizos de emergencia y unciones. Para más información sobre Cuidado Espiritual en el Hospital Valley Children's, por favor visite: valleychildrens.org/patients-and-families/support-services/spiritual.



CLERGY & RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES

CLERGY - JUNE

Rev. John Schmoll
June 1, 1985

Rev. Carlos Serrano
June 4, 2011

Rev. Dennis Alvernaz
June 6, 1971

Rev. John Gracey
June 5, 1993

Rev. Loren Blessing
June 6, 1981

Rev. Msgr. Harvey Fonseca
June 6, 1992

Rev. John Warburton OSJ
June 7, 1980

Rev. Agustin Carrillo CMF
June 8, 2018

Rev. Msgr. Richard Urizalqui
June 11, 1977

Most Rev. Joseph V. Brennan DD
June 21, 1980

Rev. Michael Moore
June 21, 1997

Rev. José Valdez Romo MSC
June 23, 1995

Rev. Antero Sanchez MSC
June 27, 1965

Rev. John Shearer OSJ
June 28, 2013

Rev. John Bruno RCJ
June 29, 1974

Rev. John Fluetsch
June 29, 1991

Rev. Byron Macias CMF
June 29, 2017

Rev. Gerardo Rodriguez
Garibay CMF

June 29, 2009

Rev. Msgr. Patrick McCormick
June 29, 1975

Rev. Msgr. Nathaniel Ndiokwere
June 29, 1975

Rev. Chika Kamalu CSSP
June 30, 2001

Rev. Henry Williams
June 30, 1978

CLERGY - JULY

Rev. Raul Marta
July 1, 1972

Rev. Adrian Kim
July 5, 2002

Rev. Marlon Nicolas Gomez Alfaro
July 9, 2011

Rev. Henry Chukwuemeka Aguwa
July 10, 2004

Rev. Marcelinus Ekenedo SMMM
July 10, 2004

Rev. Bartholomew Ifionu SMMM
July 10, 2004

Rev. John Okeke Agwu SMMM
July 10, 2004

Rev. Jose M. Montiel
July 14, 1957

Rev. Emmanuel Ogbonnaya
July 16, 1994

Rev. Gustavo López OSJ
July 18, 2009

Rev. Victor T. Dinh
July 19, 2003

Rev. Juan Manuel Flores
July 19, 2003

Rev. Genaro C. Demecais
July 20, 1982

Rev. Pedro De Medeiros Cabral OFM
July 26, 2008

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

DEACONS - JUNE/JULY RELIGIOUS - JUNE/JULY

Rev. Mr. Rolando Nolasco
June 1, 1996
Rev. Mr. Jesus Hernandez
July 2, 1988
Rev. Mr. Julian Ponce
July 3, 1977

Sr. Natalie Donola PDDM
June 21, 1952
Sr. Benita Gomez-
Hernandez MCSTNJ
June 27, 2013
Evelyn Loyola SIM
June 5, 1982
Sr. Rosalie Rohrer IHM
June 5, 1964

Sr. Lillian Stacy FHIC
June 15, 2001
Sr. Virginia Lopez Cardenas
MCSTNJ
June 28, 2003
Sr. Lucille Carreau DHS
July 29, 1968
Sr. Marie Francis
Schroepfer CSJ
July 24, 1971

CLERGY - AUGUST

Rev. Alfredo Amos
August 3, 2002
Rev. Joseph Cooray, OMI
August 6, 1988
Rev. Hilary Silva
August 12, 1989
Rev. Lucas J. Azpericueta
August 15, 1969
Rev. Bonaventure Chukwunomso Okoro
August 15, 2020

Rev. Oscar Saul Medina Zermeno
August 15, 2020
Rev. Regino Quijano
August 15, 1984
Rev. Charles Nnaemeda Ugwu
August 16, 1997
Rev. Chimezie Patrick Okeke
August 17, 2007
Rev. Ferdinand Okechukwu Udeolisa
August 20, 2005
Rev. Loji Pilonas
August 23, 1986

RELIGIOUS - AUGUST

Sr. Maria de Fatima Alvares FHIC
August 29, 1976
Sr. Maria de Dios Campuzano Diaz SMAP
August 12, 2001
Sr. Juana Castillo Bonilla SMAP
August 15, 15, 2004
Sr. Susana Del Toro SJS
August 15, 1966
Sr. Julia Fonseca FHIC
August 15, 1966
Sr. Ana Rosa Guzman MEMI
August 17, 1967
Sr. Aurora Lopez Ornelas SJS
August 15, 1992

Sr. Cecilia Pistacchio CSN
August 15, 1966
Sr. Leticia Ramirez SJS
August 12, 2006
Sr. Laurinda da Silva Sanchez FHIC
August 15, 1963
Sr. Mary Hope Sanchez IMAP
August 20, 1988
Sr. Julia Valencia Marquez IMAP
August 20, 1988
Sr. Margaret Therese Spence CSN
August 15, 1965



BUILT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

ST. RITA'S NEW CHURCH

BY THE NUMBERS

2,600

Seating Capacity

1,600

Square Footage

6,500

Registered Families
in St. Rita's Parish

St. Rita's Church in Tulare that the faithful have gotten to know over 81 years can be described as a dynamic and vibrant parish.

With the project idea of expanding St. Rita's Church dating back to 2005, the building project began to propel forward when Fr. Ivan Hernandez Melchor became administrator for St. Rita's in 2012. Fr. Ivan recognized that the parish had outgrown the current church and facilities. The old church had a maximum seat capacity of 500. Each weekend, parishioners can be seen seated outside in the hot and cold weather conditions despite Fr. Ivan offering 8 weekend Masses. Within the past seven years, the number of registered families went from 2,300 to 6,500 and is continuously growing. The building of a new church at a larger scale, with a capacity of 1,600, will be able to accommodate the growing ministry and parishioners.

With the New Church, it was a priority to include the parishioners and the community in this project. St. Rita's welcomed parishioners and the community to sign the walls with their names and messages before the construction was completed. That way, their sincerity and faith will forever be engraved in the Church. St. Rita's also held an Olive Tree (The Tree of Hope) fundraiser where with each donation, an ornament was hung on an Olive Tree planted at St. Rita's with a name written on it. This served as a reminder of surviving the 2020 Global Pandemic. A plaque listing the names of each donor was also placed to represent strength, fruitfulness and peace.

The building of the new church goes beyond just raising money. At St. Rita's, each parishioner is part of the story. Each person has left their footprint and become part of the Church. Whether it was participating in fundraisers such as the famous Cinco De Mayo festival, winning livestock from a raffle drawing, signing the walls, planting a flower – their mark is there forever and will be remembered for generations. It's not just a building but it has a piece of their faith in it.

With a passionate community and priest, St. Rita's was able to overcome difficulties and came together with a goal to have St. Rita's become a place for our future generations. There are also plans beyond the dedication of the church. Future phases of construction will include a youth center/parish hall, classrooms, parish office and possible rectory.

St. Rita's Church is located on the cross streets of Bardsley and Morrison. It is 2 miles east of the Old Church.





Rod Thornburg / For The Californian

The Rev. Larry Tosehi, the Rev. Monsignor Perry Kavookjian, Bishop Joseph V. Brennan, diocesan director of cemeteries Carlos Rascon and field supervisor Alvaro J. Alvarez turn over dirt during the groundbreaking of Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery in northwest Bakersfield on Sunday.

CEMETERY BREAKS GROUND

FIRST CATHOLIC CEMETERY IN BAKERSFIELD UNDERWAY

by Vada Hepner - vhepner@bakersfield.com

Bishop Joseph V. Brennan of the 'Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno gathered with supports and members of the Bakersfield Catholic community on Sunday, March 5th on a barren plot of land south of Vega Meadow Road and east of Renfro Road.

The 55 acres of dirt in northwest Bakersfield will be transformed into the sacred site of the Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery in six to eight months serving the Catholic community.

"It has been a to-do item for more than 50 years," said Carlos Rascon, cemetery director for the diocese. "The fact that we are actually at this point is a big accomplishment."

Brennan opened the ceremony with the "most powerful sign of God's love", the the sign of the cross, and the crowd came together, joining him in the words and actions of the prayer.

The bishop acknowledged afterward that he wasn't blessing the cemetery and would do that once it's tie for the ribbon cutting.

Melissa Quintanilla, a Bakersfield resident and Catholic who lives near the site, said she is excited to have a place where her traditions are honored in a sacred place specifically designed for Catholics. "For me, it brings an extra sense of Peace, Quintanilla said.

Multiple names for the cemetery were submitted



Rod Thornburg / For The Californian

Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno Bishop Joseph V. Brennan blesses people during the groundbreaking of the Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery in northwest Bakersfield on Sunday. The Rev. Monsignor Perry Kavookjian, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, holds the water.

for review, and Bishop Brennan chose the name Queen of Peace Cemetery. Queen of Peace is one of the titles for the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Roman Catholic Church.

“She’s very pivotal to us as well as our beliefs. She brings us closer to her son,” Quintanilla said.

From finding suitable land and the funds to construct the cemetery to dealing with long lists of applications and permitting, the Diocese of Fresno has been through a lot to develop the cemetery in Bakersfield.

Rascon said the funds for the cemetery are provided through a loan program through the Diocese of Fresno, with some of it coming from the proceeds of the three currently operating cemeteries in Fresno. “For the entire project, the cost should be right around \$3 million,” Rascon said.

While trying to secure initial approval from the Kern County Planning Commission in 2021, local residents expressed a lot of concerns about the cemetery’s location. “Some of the concern was of course the visual impact, so that’s why there is going to be a 7-foot-high block wall,” Rascon said.

Another concern that Rascon addressed was security. Local residents were concerned about traffic, vandalism and noise at night. The diocese will provide security and the gates will be locked outside hours of operation.

The office will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm with the grounds open for visitors from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Kenneth Loierner, a representative for /state Sen. Shannon Grove, and Joseph Brennan (who has the same name as the bishop), the district director at Kern County Supervisor Phillip Peters’ office attended to give the bishop certificates of recognition. “This development is going to provide our families a space to gather and remember their loved ones. With compassion, faith and respect,” Loierner, who is catholic, said during his speech.

At the end of the ceremony, the bishop blessed the people in attendance with holy water. “Everyone matters, everyone counts” the bishop said. “Every part of what we’re trying to attempt here is important.”



Rod Thornburg / For The Californian

At the groundbreaking for Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery on Sunday, Director of Cemeteries Carlos Rascon, Joseph F. Brennan, representative for Kern County Supervisor Phillip Peters, and Bishop Joseph V. Brennan take time for photos.

**St. Anthony Catholic School
(Fresno)**



**Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in
Bakersfield - All Saints Day Mass**



**San Joaquin
Memorial Mass**



Chrim Mass - MIQ



**Our Lady
of Perpetual
Help School
in Bakersfield
May Crowning**



**Garces Memorial Catholic
Schools Week Mass**



St. Anne's Morning Prayer





INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE MISSION CHURCH CONFIRMATION

On April 18, 2023, Divine Mercy Sunday, Bishop Joseph Brennan visited Infant Jesus of Prague Mission church in Tollhouse and confirmed seven Divine Mercy youth. It was a beautiful day for a scenic drive up the hill from Clovis to Tollhouse. The church was filled to the brim with the families and friends of the candidates.



ST PATRICK KERMAN - CONFIRMATION

We would like to thank Bishop Armando Ochoa for being present and granting the Sacrament of Confirmation. Also in attendance was Fr Marcelinus and Deacon Mike. God bless our Youth!



HOLY SPIRIT CONFIRMATION

On March 4, 2023, the Holy Spirit Teens received the Sacrament of Confirmation. These candidates were anointed by Chrism and sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit by Bishop Joseph V. Brennan.

Keeping Children and Teens **SAFE ONLINE**

Computers and mobile devices can be helpful tools for children and teens to learn and grow in faith and fellowship. Unfortunately, the digital world is also full of unsafe and explicit content. You wouldn't hand a teen the car keys without first teaching them how to drive. The same should be true for using technology—teach them how to keep themselves and others safe while using it.



You can use the following tips to better protect young people from harm online:

1 Model appropriate online behavior for young people. Children look to their parents to teach and show them the ways to appropriately use technology. The biggest influence on what children see as acceptable or unacceptable is you.

2 Teach your children not to share private information or images online. Strangers posing as online friends can try to gain the trust of minors. Personal information such as name, address, and phone number should never be shared with an unknown person. Tell your children to immediately tell a trusted adult if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable.

3 Limit usage of computers and mobile devices to public spaces in the home. Not only will this help to prevent young people from accessing unsafe websites, it will also help them to develop safe browsing habits later in life.

4 Install software that can block or monitor explicit website use. Open access to harmful websites, like those that include pornography, is a constant threat to

young people. Website filters can prevent access to harmful and explicit sites and some can even alert you when such a site is accessed.

5 Review and discuss the websites your child has visited and apps they have used. Oversight of your child or teen's browsing history and app usage can help to keep them safe online. If you notice your child has browsed an unsafe website or app, discuss why that behavior is harmful. Learn about current apps that could be harmful to children and teenagers, especially those that involve image sharing, private communication, or the illusion of privacy.

6 Report online exploitation of minors to public authorities. If you become aware of explicit content involving minors, such as solicitation, explicit images or videos, you should submit a report to law enforcement or through resources like CyberTipline from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.



Manteniendo a los niños y adolescentes **SEGUROS EN LÍNEA**

Las computadoras y los dispositivos móviles pueden ser herramientas útiles para que los niños y adolescentes aprendan y crezcan en la fe y el compañerismo. Desafortunadamente, el mundo digital también está lleno de contenido inseguro y explícito. No le entregarías a un adolescente las llaves del auto sin antes enseñarle a conducir. Lo mismo debería ser cierto para el uso de la tecnología: enséñeles cómo mantenerse seguros a ellos mismos y a los demás mientras que lo usan.

Tu puedes usar los siguientes consejos para proteger mejor a los jóvenes contra daños en línea:



como aquellos que incluyen pornografía, es una amenaza constante para gente jovenes. Los filtros de sitios web pueden impedir el acceso a sitios dañosos y explícitos, y algunos pueden avisarle cuando se accede el sitio.

1 Crear un modelo de comportamiento en línea apropiado para jóvenes.

Los niños buscan que sus padres les enseñen y les muestran las maneras de usar la tecnología de una manera apropiada. La mayor influencia sobre lo que los niños consideran aceptable o inaceptable es usted.

2 Enseñe a tus hijos que no comparten información privada o imágenes en línea.

Los extraños que se hacen pasar por amigos en línea pueden intentar ganarse la confianza de los menores de edad. La información personal, como el nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono, nunca debe ser compartido con una persona desconocida. Dígales a tus hijos que le cuentan inmediatamente a un adulto que confían por si alguien los hace sentir incómodos.

3 Limite el uso de computadoras y dispositivos móviles a espacios públicos en el hogar.

Esto no solo ayudará a evitar que los jóvenes accedan a sitios web inseguros, sino que también les ayudará a desarrollar hábitos seguros de navegar sitios en el futuro.

4 Instale software que pueda bloquear o monitorear el uso explícito del sitio web.

El acceso abierto a sitios web dañosos,

5 Revise y discuta los sitios web que su hijo ha visitado y las aplicaciones que usaron.

La vigilancia sobre la historia de navegación y el uso de aplicación móvil de su hijo o adolescente puede ayudarlo a mantenerse en línea. Si notas que tu hijo ha navegado por una aplicación móvil o sitio web inseguro, discuta por qué ese comportamiento es perjudicial. Obtenga información sobre las aplicaciones que podrían ser perjudiciales para niños y adolescentes, especialmente aquellos que involucran el intercambio de imágenes, la comunicación privada o la ilusión de privacidad.

6 Reporta la explotación en línea de menores de edad a las autoridades públicas.

Si te das cuenta de contenido explícito que involucra a menores de edad, como explotación de un menor edad, imágenes o videos explícitos, debes de enviar un informe a la policía o a través de recursos como CyberTipline del Centro Nacional para Niños Desaparecidos y Explotados.





THE RITE OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

OF

**Rev. Jose Maria Carrillo, Rev. Arturo Cisneros,
Rev. Jorge Adrian Cruz Paez, Rev. James Tasy,
Rev. Rene Vargas**

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2023 -
ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO CHURCH - VISALIA, CA



MEET OUR NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS

MAY 27, 2023



REV. JOSE MARIA
CARRILLO



REV. ARTURO
CISNEROS



REV. JORGE ADRIAN
CRUZ PAEZ



REV. JAMES
TASY



REV. RENE
VARGAS



82 PARISH YOUTH CONFIRMED AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA IN FRESNO

by Ray Young, DRE

Over 1000 family and friends were in attendance at St. Anthony of Padua - Fresno on Saturday, April 25, 2023 to witness 82 parish youth receive Confirmation. We pray this special day and the significance of what they received from Bishop Armando Xavier Ochoa remains with them throughout their life. Bishop reminded them that today is not a graduation, but rather the beginning of their adult faith journey. Today is when you say Yes (like Mary's "Fiat") to the call of the Holy Spirit to live your Catholic faith and to share

that faith with others.

It is a call to be an active part of the faith community starting this Sunday and every Sunday thereafter at St. Anthony of Padua and St. Agnes parishes. Let us continue to pray for these young people that God will use them in unique ways to influence our local community with the fruits of the Holy Spirit; which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Congratulations to the Confirmandi and their families.

2023 PORTUGUESE FESTA SCHEDULE

COMPILED BY FATHER HARVEY FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED

Sunday, June 4-Los Banos-Santissima Trindade

Sunday, June 4-San Luis Obispo-Divino Espirito Santo

Sunday, June 4-Selma-Divino Espirito Santo

Sunday, June 4-Tipton-Divino Espirito Santo

Sunday, June 11-Stevinson-Divino Espirito Santo

Sunday, June 11-Tulare--T.D.E.S.

Sunday, June 18-Patterson-Divino Espirito Santo

Sunday, June 18-Visalia-Divino Espirito Santo

Saturday, June 24-Hopeton-Sao Joao Baptista

Sunday, June 25-Atwater-Divino Espirito Santo

Sunday, July 2-Fresno/Easton-Festa de Sao Pedro

Sunday, July 2-Livingston-Divino Espirito Santo

Sunday, July 9-Monterey-Divino Espirito Santo

Sunday, July 14-Lemoore- Santissima Trindade

Sunday, July 16-Fresno/Easton-Santo Antonio de Lisboa

Sunday, July 16-Gustine--Divino Espirito Santo

Sunday, July 23-Benicia-B.D.E.S.

Sunday, August 6-Hanford-Santo Antonio de Lisboa

Sunday, August 20-Turlock-Nossa Senhora de Assun ao

Sunday, September 10-Gustine-Nossa Senhora dos Milagres

Sunday, August 20-Pismo Beach-Saint Anthony

Sunday, September 24-Visalia-Our Lady of Fatima

Sunday, October 8-Los Banos-Nossa Senhora de Fatima

Sunday, October 13-Thornton-Nossa Senhora de Fatima

Sunday, October 22-Hilmar-Nossa Senhora do Rosario de Fatima

WHY IS AUTHORITY SO IMPORTANT?

by Joseph Pulido

Interfaith Alliance of Central California

According to the Catechism, living in society is a requirement of our human nature. To reach our potential as individuals, we need others to help us get there.

Though we need each other in society, making society work is a complex feat. Each person has their own background, emotions, ideas, goals, priorities, quirks, needs, etc.

To avoid or minimize the potential for chaos, some kind of order is needed. We all have a fundamental desire to feel safe, to know we are valued, and are part of a community. Social order enables us to have the necessary stability to fulfill these deep human needs and desires. If we did not have social order, chaos would reign, and many basic human needs and desires would go unmet.

This brings us to the next logical point. How do we as a society put together, maintain, and further develop the required social order that is needed to bring about a prosperous and flourishing society? Whether we like it or not, authority is needed

Authority is needed in order to direct the many competing needs and desires of a society or community. With so many differing world views, temperaments, and agendas among the many individuals living in a society, community, or group, an authority is needed in order to help organize and support the various individual needs and desires of each member in society. As the Catechism relates, “every human community needs an authority to govern it.”

Thus, the role of authority is vital to the basic functioning and flourishing of communities, small and large.

However, the carrying out of authority is one of the most delicate and intricate of human undertakings because it confronts the difficult relationship between human weakness and power.

Authority is power and, as we all know, power can tempt us in self-serving ways. Power without humility can be an open door to our most unruly of emotions and can be a stage for displaying our inner most and hidden insecurities and prejudices for all to see.

At some point, we all will hold a position of authority. Having authority over others can bring the best and worst out of ourselves.

Therefore, it is imperative to apply both institutional and personal authority in leadership. Institutional authority is the technical component of leadership, which gives a person the official recognition to carry out the basic demands, requirements, and objectives of an organization or community. Personal authority is the relational and pastoral component of leadership, which breathes life into a community or organization. Personal authority brings credibility to institutional authority by fostering an environment of trust, compassion, and positivity that its community members can rally behind.

Moreover, where institutional authority gives a person the right to make a decision within a community, personal authority, is the right of the members of the community to know that they are respected, listened to, dignified, encouraged, and empowered. Institutional authority without personal authority can lead to weakened communities and organizations. At times, when those in authority lean too heavily on institutional authority it usually indicates an imbalance and a deficiency of personal authority.

It is important to note that authority and power in and of themselves are not bad. The phrase “power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely,” does not always have to apply.

Pope Benedict XVI in a homily on Holy Thursday 2012, pointed out that God is All-powerful, and uses His power for goodness. “Power is goodness and goodness is power.” In other words, we do not have to be afraid when we are in positions of authority and power. However, whenever we do occupy positions of authority it is vital to maintain both institutional and personal authority at the humble service of any community or organization. And to always keep in mind that the ultimate goal of authority is to advance the dignity and respect of the People of God, who are on their pilgrimage with the ultimate source of authority: God.

JOSHUA FAGEN, EAGLE SCOUT

Thanks to Eagle Scout Troop 35 St. Paul Catholic Newman Center has a beautiful addition to their property. Last year a young man named Joshua Fagen submitted an Eagle Scout Service. Joshua and his family are avid parishioners and he is a part of their high school ministry, Claretian Youth! The proposal to the Newman Center was to create a seating area around their existing firepit. With patience and determination, Joshua was able to bring this project to fruition.



He presented the proposal plan for approval to the Newman Center and the Diocese. His presentation was complete with detailed sketches, plans, estimated materials, and logistics for all phases. The project was welcomed with blessings

from the family who dedicated the firepit, Joshua then raised the necessary funds and set a date for construction. The project was completed on April 1, 2023. Again, thank you Joshua Fagen and Troop 35!

MARKETING THE FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE COURSE

JoAnn LoForti, MS, RN

The Diocese of Fresno is once again offering the Foundations Course for Registered Nurses wishing to become certified as a Faith Community Nurse (FCN). This course is being offered **September 28-October 1, 2023**. Completing the FCN Foundations course will enable an RN to begin and manage a Health Ministry program within their respective parish as well as provide 34 CEU's.



IF INTERESTED AND WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
ROXANNA STEVENS, RN AT
RSTEVENS@DIOCESEOFFRESNO.ORG OR
559 488-7474, EXT. 108.

GOD'S NEW CALLING IN OUR LIVES

by Ron and Sandy Smith

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Colossians 3:12

My wife and I founded Friends of St. Kizito Rubuguri Primary School, a nonprofit organization, after visiting St. Kizito Rubuguri Primary School in Rubuguri, Uganda twice within a three-month span, starting in October 2022. We decided to create a nonprofit organization to raise awareness and support for the school. We have built a website for the parish as well as for the new organization: **www.stpaulruburicatholicparish.org**, **www.friendsofstkizitorubugurips.org**.

We went on our first mission trip in October 2022. Since then, we have sold our business, created a nonprofit organization, and returned to Uganda twice to work hand in hand with the parishioners at St. Paul’s Catholic Church Rubuguri and the teachers and students of the school. After meeting students, teachers, and touring the campus with Father Nestorio Niwagaba, we knew that we could help St. Kizito’s, a school that serves approximately 550 students. It was easy to see some of the needs of the school including replacing dirt floors in classrooms, building dormitories for girls and boys, adding solar power, and more. The school and church are part of the Catholic Diocese of Kabale, Uganda, led by Bishop Callist Rubaramira, a Godly man and wise leader who took time to meet and break bread with us during our most recent visit.

We write today, to promote our organization and the opportunity to provide service in Uganda while visiting one of the most beautiful places in the world. We are looking for partners to meet the needs of the community. We welcome the opportunity to share our story with you! We can share in person or via Zoom. We invite you to come safari, track chimpanzees, go gorilla tracking or visit the Ugandan Martyrs Shrines in Kampala. We’ll present upcoming projects and invite you to join us in making a difference in a needy community with smiling faces.

As we walk the school grounds each day and speak with teachers and parents, we learn more about the needs and how the greater community of faith can help.

- There are no hand washing stations on campus
- There are no rainwater capture systems on campus
- Some Toilets do not have doors and provide limited privacy
- Some toilets are just a concrete slab with walls and a hole in the ground
- Buildings need renovations
- Teachers need additional books and teaching resources
- The electricity goes out frequently. Solar would be helpful
- Student nutrition needs improvement



WHY SHOULD YOU DONATE?

There are unmet needs in Rubuguri and the surrounding community. By investing in St. Kizito Rubuguri Primary School, an individual can participate in the transformation process of opening educational and economic opportunities for current and future generations. Your support will help complete classroom buildings; replace aging classrooms with modern facilities; build a girls dormitory to increase the likelihood that girls will stay in school; enhance student learning through increased teacher training; provide additional textbooks and learning materials; and add computers and WIFI to the campus.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Come and see St. Kizito Rubuguri Primary School in person. Share in the daily activities of our students and faculty. We are looking for volunteers to help plan the next phases of the campus renovation. We are also open to individuals and groups that can help with teacher training, staff development, and improving student nutrition. If you would like to share your expertise while learning more about our work, we look forward to your visit. Safe, convenient accommodations can be arranged to make your visit a wonderful experience.

TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH

If you are looking for ways to make a difference in the world, join us in Rukungiri, Uganda. We promise that the experience will change your life forever. Sandy and I spend a great deal of time in Rubuguri as we truly love and enjoy being there. The people are very friendly and welcoming. The surrounding mountains provide breathtaking views. It is a blessed place to be. From staying in a resort during our first visit to staying in guest housing on campus in March, the community continues to grow on us.

We took a leap of faith and now, in addition to running this organization, we sponsor twin seven-year-old girls in Morogoro, Tanzania who lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. What could be better than serving God by helping others?

We leave you with 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

If you would like to support St. Kizito Rubuguri Primary School, there are several options including:

- Visit the school as a volunteer
- Provide technical assistance or expertise on one or more school projects
- Provide financial support
- Sponsor a student to attend Primary School
- Sponsor a student to attend Secondary School
- Purchase / Sponsor a Desk
- Send supplies to the school
- Encourage your church, business or organization to make a contribution
- Share the Good News about the school with others.
- Pray for the students, staff, and parents of St. Kizito's
- Provide strategies and solutions to meet the needs of the school
- Consider advising our Board of Directors



RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Roman Flores, Catechetical Ministry, Diocese of Fresno

The Church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost fifty days after Easter Sunday and ends the Easter season. Before returning to Heaven, the resurrected Jesus visited his disciples and promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them. We read in Scripture that one morning, when the disciples gathered with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and other women, they suddenly heard a noise like a strong wind. Then they saw what appeared to be flames of fire upon each of them. “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:4).

The Holy Spirit filled the disciples with courage and faith, empowering them to share the Good News with others. They began to tell others about Jesus and that He died for us and rose to new life. On this day, the gift of the Spirit enabled the disciples to communicate even with those who spoke different languages. The event of Pentecost changed the world and gave birth to the Church today. The Holy Spirit is still with us today.

When the Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ disciples at the first Pentecost, He gave them courage and power to share the Good News with others. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we too are given the courage and strength to preach His word in what we say and what we do in our lives and how we respond to God’s blessings. In the bible St. Paul enumerates the fruits of the Spirit.

St. Paul tells us that these fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will not only show these fruits in our lives, but they will be reflected through us upon others.

As the faithful, each of us joins the first disciples to be sent to share the good news of Jesus with others. This can be daunting if we think that evangelism only means traveling to faraway lands or standing on street corners as preachers and prophets, but it’s much simpler than that.

Evangelism is designed for the entire community with the entirety of all the faithful. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples to embolden and empower them to evangelize but it was Jesus that taught them how to recognize what evangelization

meant. Just as the disciples learned from Jesus’ acts of works and mercy, we too can continue to learn the essential mission of the Church today.

As we continue to celebrate the feast of Pentecost as the “finishing touch” of the Easter season, this feast will continue to affirm who we are as one Church, the people of God called to spread everywhere the news of the mighty words and deeds of Jesus Christ.



RECIBIENDO EL ESPÍRITU SANTO

by Roman Flores, Coordinador del Ministerio de Catequesis, Diócesis de Fresno

La Iglesia celebra la fiesta de Pentecostés cincuenta días después del Domingo de Pascua y termina la temporada de Pascua. Antes de regresar al cielo, Jesús resucitado visitó a sus discípulos y prometió enviar al Espíritu Santo para ayudarlos. Leemos en las Escrituras que una mañana, cuando los discípulos se reunieron con María, la madre de Jesús, y otras mujeres, de repente escucharon un ruido como un viento fuerte. Entonces vieron lo que parecían ser llamas de fuego sobre cada uno de ellos. “El Espíritu Santo los llenó a todos”. (Hechos 2:4)

El Espíritu Santo llenó a los discípulos con valentía y fe, capacitándolos para compartir las Buenas Nuevas con otros. Comenzaron a contarles a otros acerca de Jesús y que Él murió por nosotros y resucitó a una nueva vida. En este día, el don del Espíritu permitió a los discípulos

comunicarse incluso con aquellos que hablaban diferentes idiomas. El acontecimiento de Pentecostés cambió el mundo y dio a luz a la Iglesia de hoy. El Espíritu Santo todavía está con nosotros hoy.

Cuando el Espíritu Santo vino a los discípulos de Jesús en el primer Pentecostés, les dio valor y poder para compartir las Buenas Nuevas con otros. Cuando somos llenados del Espíritu Santo, también se nos da el valor y la fuerza para predicar Su palabra en lo que decimos y lo que hacemos en nuestras vidas y cómo respondemos a las bendiciones de Dios.

En la Biblia San Pablo enumera los frutos del Espíritu. San Pablo nos dice que estos frutos son amor, alegría, paz, paciencia, bondad, generosidad, fidelidad, mansedumbre y dominio propio. Cuando estamos llenos del Espíritu Santo, no solo mostraremos estos frutos en nuestras vidas, sino que se reflejarán por medio de nosotros hacia otros.

Como fieles, cada uno de nosotros acompaña a los primeros discípulos enviados a compartir las buenas nuevas de Jesús con los demás. Esto puede ser desalentador si pensamos que

el evangelismo solo significa viajar a tierras lejanas o pararse en las esquinas de las calles como predicadores y profetas, pero es mucho más simple que eso.

La evangelización está destinada a toda la comunidad con la totalidad de todos los fieles.

En Pentecostés,

el Espíritu Santo vino sobre los discípulos para envalentonarlos y darles poder para evangelizar, pero fue Jesús quien les enseñó cómo reconocer lo que significaba la evangelización. Así como los discípulos aprendieron de los actos de obras y misericordia de Jesús, también nosotros podemos continuar aprendiendo la misión esencial de la Iglesia hoy.

Mientras continuamos celebrando la fiesta de Pentecostés como el “broche de oro” del tiempo de Pascua, esta fiesta seguirá afirmando quiénes somos como una sola Iglesia, el pueblo de Dios llamado a difundir por todas partes las noticias de las poderosas palabras y obras de Jesucristo.

“
**EL ESPÍRITU
SANTO LOS
LLENÓ A TODOS -
HECHOS 2:4**
”

A CATHOLIC SUMMER

REFLECTIONS OF HEALTHY ENCOUNTERS FOR THE MIDDLE MONTHS

by Carlos Flores RN, Faith Community Nurse

Some years ago, this writer was introduced to the concept of a “Catholic summer” written by a favorite author, Fr. Andrew Greeley (God rest his soul). Fr. Greeley used the phrase in a single sentence of his novel *Summer at the Lake*. Spoken by Jane, a main character of the story... “I should have a Catholic summer, one in which we allow the summer heat to rekindle the warmth of love that once existed between us.” Jane was ruminating about an old lover and how viewing the season in this way has the potential of a rekindling, romantic reunion.

In the same way, our Lord Jesus Christ, desires us to desire him. It is good that we find ourselves returning to rekindle our love for him in all that we do. These warm months offer us an opportunity to do just that.

A Catholic summer is experiencing the season of light and warmth with a vision that is inspired. A vision whose beauty draws us into the goodness and truth of our faith. Yet, a vision that also enables us to see how we, his people, can experience him whenever, and wherever, we are; A sort of a sacramental without actually being one.

A Catholic summer brings together elements of the world and God’s grace in which we are immersed each day of the season. As a gift of grace, we can find ourselves floating within the divine love of light, warmth, flavor, touch...and one another.

Our faith expresses the tradition of signs and symbols occupying an important place in our lives. God whispers his presence with us through his visible creation and through human experiences of our relationship with one another. The elements that meld summer into pleasant memory, can be a means which brings us into an encounter with our Lord.

Envisioning this time of year through the lens of our faith provides us the ability to savor the richness and flavor, sights and beauty, sense and touch of what we hold dear to the middle months of the year. If we see it in this way, we then invite Jesus to enter our space creating a grace of wellness within us; Wellness by way of living in faith, hope, and love, despite any moments of challenge that might befall us. Wellness in this sense is a way of accepting his life-giving nurturing which enables us

to experience joy and peace despite ill health or unfavorable life events. It is a form of reflection and prayer and encounter.

A Catholic summer is a way of seeing life that brings us closer to our Lord.

THE SUN / THE SON.

“And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.” Matthew 17:2

The sun is consistently dazzling. It provides us with light that is unending and life giving. It creates beauty and color, warmth and comfort. It gives of itself freely and without end. Those who bask in it will eventually reflect a bronze glow noticeable to others. Without it, we find ourselves in darkness. But, despite any darkness, it continues to exist with its brightness and light returning to us.

In the same way the Son, our Lord Jesus, is a constant life-giving presence. His light is forever leading us through our paths of uncertainty. Always showing us the way to truth if we choose to follow his light. He provides us the warmth of the Father

through his unconditional love; Embracing us in the most frigid of moments which offers us comfort in all circumstances. He gives of himself consistently and without hesitation. All that is asked of us is to reach for him. Those who follow him, truly follow him, are witnesses to his love, despite those moments when we turn away (sin). We are promised that we can return to the light in repentance and forgiveness. The Son forever warms us with the brilliance of his life-giving love.

WATER / BAPTISM

“Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and spirit.’ John 3:5

Water, literally a fluid of life, dominates our world, both internally and externally. It prevails as the most abundant substance within our body and saturates most of our earthly world. Life would not be without it.

When we thirst, nothing quenches us to the satisfaction of pure water, nothing is nearly as sweet. Our bodies too are refreshed by bathing in it, swimming in it, being submersed in it. Our minds also are relaxed by its symphony, waves crashing on the beach, a waterfall crescendo, the babbling of a brook, or even the flutter of a

cleansing rain.

In all that it is, we often overlook its significance; unless we take a moment to notice its beauty. Whether we’re sitting on a beach, lulled by each wave and movement or we’re simply sitting in our own yard mesmerized by the droplets of a running sprinkler. Reflecting on how water brings us a life-giving joy can also invite us to contemplate the original life-giving meaning of what our baptism is.

Our baptism, the basis of the whole Christian life and a gateway to life in the spirit, literally, initiates us into the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ himself. In Greek, baptizein means “plunge” or “immerse” into water symbolizing the persons burial into Christ’s death, from which one rises by the resurrection with Christ as a new creature. Thus we are reborn through the water.

In Baptism we become priest, prophet, and king. Priest, as we give God highest praise in piety. Prophet, as we speak and live divine truth witnessing through our lives. King, building the Christian kingdom as a mission in how we live with the gifts we’re given.

Just so, the sacrament of baptism, as with all sacraments, requires us to be mindful of our part in it. Just as we must bring ourselves to notice the beauty within water,

we too must consider what part we play by allowing our baptism to seep into our souls. Water is a sacramental of baptism, essential in both our physical and spiritual lives.

BREAKING BREAD / THE HOLY EUCHARIST

“When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.” Lk 24:30-31

Coming to the table is perhaps the most frequent social interaction we experience with others. What joy it brings to invite someone to dinner or set out on a small journey for a picnic. During the summer months, al fresco dining, particularly in the evening, can be a pleasure that allows us to interact with one another while also enjoying a meal under a summer night canopy of stars and beneath the heavens.

Conversations of all topics are expressed over a meal and drinks giving cause to learn more about each other and to feed one another our thoughts, our feelings. We enjoy laughter and share tears during these moments when gathered over the table. How wonderful these moments have with the potential to bring joy.

Continued from Pg. 31

Jesus often brought us to an encounter with himself through a meal. He still does. On the road to Emmaus, Cleopas and his companion were deeply intrigued by Jesus' explanations of what had just occurred that morning. His words gave them truths and insights that they hadn't yet fully grasped. The two weren't allowed to recognize Jesus, but their souls were stirred by his presence with the encounter. As the day drew to a close, they insisted that their new friend stay and dine with them. As they began their meal, Jesus gave thanks and broke bread with them, at which time they recognized the Lord.

This Eucharistic moment is one in which we Catholics can all share. Recalling the truth of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Sacrament helps us to engrain within us that Jesus is actually and literally, physically and divinely present. That we take him in, into our body and soul. This banquet also is us sitting at table with Jesus, along with the twelve apostles, as a work made present by the liturgical action of the Catholic Mass.

How wonderful it is indeed to observe our together moments with others over the table and remember just how our Lord himself brings us together over his divine meal as the living bread that came down from heaven.

FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND ALL / THE MYSTICAL BODY

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body.” 1 Cor 12:12-13

We are social beings. Although, each of us has different desires for socializing, we all need and thrive in the touch of human interaction. Through our baptism God's grace introduces us into the gift of life within the mystical body. We are invited into a blend of souls of both physical and spiritual forms. With one another, our church is indeed more of an organism than an organization. We are a living mystical body. We each have our own purpose and mission, talents and gifts.

One of our most basic gifts given through grace is the ability to love, however, most of us upon hearing the word “love” immediately sentimentalize it. Thinking in terms of what the Greeks referred to as “eros,” the love between spouses, or “philia,” the love of friendship, love can sometimes be misunderstood. But there is also the richer, Catholic understanding of love referred to as “agape.” St. Thomas Aquinas describes it, as the love of “willing the good

of the other, as other.” Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI teaches that with agape, we can “love even the person whom I do not like or even know.” We are then capable of giving Christian love to anyone.

The warm season gatherings encourage play within which we find loving one another, simple and rewarding. Our summer backyard barbecues and parties reawaken within each of us a return and celebration of who we are as God's children. There is after all, a child inside all of us, who like John the Baptist in the womb, comes alive and leaps with joy when we visit our long-lost cousins or old friends who may have been separated from us by time and distance. We are made to gather with one another and to enjoy each other's company, simply for the sake of doing so.

A Catholic Summer is a grace filled opportunity to rekindle the warmth of love shared between God and us. Moments of encounter present themselves in summer experiences within the blend of sun, water, shared meals, and the gift of each other. We need only to look and see.

About the author. Carlos Flores is a Faith Community Nurse serving in the Diocese of Tyler, Tx. Formerly from the Diocese of Fresno, Ca, He along with his bride Sally (also an FCN) work within various ministries focusing on the promotion of health through the Catholic lens. He may be contacted by email f8thnurse@gmail.com



WE ALSO RISE

by Jim Marks, St. Patrick Parish, Merced

The Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms that “The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community” (CCC, 638). The resurrection of Jesus is foundational to the Church, and it is this event in the life of Jesus that sets us apart from other religious traditions. The victory over sin and death provided by the resurrection gives us, not only hope for the future, but power and grace for our lives in the present.

I know a man who, now in his early sixties, is getting ready to retire from a successful business, which he started in the 1990s, a few years after he was released from prison. He had been convicted of bank robbery as a young adult and as he says, “spent pretty much the 1980s in prison.”

While in prison, he benefitted from the work of a prison ministry. This ministry continued to help him after his release and he became active as a mentor to other ex-convicts, as well as learning how to start his own business. His hard work and dedication to righteous living have resulted in a happy, productive life.

In a sense, this story also tells of resurrection. This man had grown up in a home in which both parents were alcoholics, money was scarce, and values for learning and personal growth were non-existent. He hit the streets as a seventeen-year-old trying to figure out how to get through the days.

He met a gang from Los Angeles which was recruiting local valley teens to do the dirty work of robbing banks. He soon got caught, and his time in prison began.

For a youngster facing years behind bars, it seemed that life was over. He felt as if he might as well be dead. But if our Heavenly Father can raise one of his children from the dead, He can do the same for all the others. Many of us have experienced times in our lives when we felt as if it was all over. Miraculously, the Father has brought us back to life.

As we remember the resurrection of our Lord, let us be thankful that the grace of God extends even to us. The power of God’s love continues into our celebration of Pentecost; His spirit comes continually in our lives as it did that day, enabling us to be faithful and true. In Romans, St. Paul reminds us that “We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4). Hallelujah!

RETREAT INTO THE PAST

by *Christian Clifford,*
Award-Winning author



THE CALIFORNIA MISSION TRAIL

Author Richard Rodriguez wrote in a 1987 Los Angeles Times piece of the missions impact, “To live here [California] is to submit to the names, to the ruins

of a Spanish adventure, to live among Spanish.” Come and find out if his words ring true.

The twenty-one California missions, founded by Saint Junípero Serra, OFM (1713-1784), dot the nation’s most populous state for 800 miles. The first, Mission San Diego de Alcalá, was consecrated in 1769. The last, Mission San Francisco Solano, popularly known as Mission Sonoma, was founded in 1823.

Saint Junípero Serra, the Mallorcan-born, 5’2”, Franciscan priest, entered San Diego in 1769 and founded the first of nine during his tenure as father president.

He was 57 years old when he was given the opportunity to fulfill his dream of bringing the gospel to gentiles. The Faith is alive and well along the California Missions Trail. Eighteen of the missions are active Catholic parishes. Though not a parish, a priest from the local Catholic parish, Our Lady of Solitude, celebrates Mass at Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad once a month. Mission La Purísima Concepción (at Lompoc) and Mission San Francisco Solano (at Sonoma) are state parks.

If you are visiting them by car or walking (yes, people do this and there is even a group devoted to helping pilgrims, the California Mission Walkers), a must-visit is the retreat centers.

MISSION SAN LUIS REY DE FRANCIA

The Franciscans have a retreat center on the grounds of the 18th of the 21 California missions, founded on June 13, 1798 by Father Fermín Francisco de Lasuén. Father Antonio Peyri was its pastor for over thirty-three years. In my opinion, the Mission's greatest claim to fame was Pablo Tac (1822–1841), Mission Indian and scholar, who went to Rome to study for the priesthood and whose writings are the earliest from a California Indian. Some of my favorite things to do there are to pray in the shade of the oldest pepper tree in California, planted in 1830, and walk approximately 6 miles along the San Luis River Trail from the Mission to Oceanside Harbor Beach (a short bus ride back should get you back to the retreat center in time for dinner). For more information, visit www.sanluisrey.org.

MISSION SAN JUAN BAUTISTA

On the feast day of Saint John the Baptist, June 24, 1797, Father Fermín Francisco de Lasuén founded Mission San Juan Bautista, the 15th of the 21 California missions. Known as “The Mission of Music”, the church has had an unbroken succession of pastors from its foundation. Though not on the grounds of the Mission, three miles to the southeast one finds a gem, Saint Francis Retreat Center, founded in 1947 by the Franciscans. While there one can visit the building labor activist Cesar Chávez often stayed, pet farm animals, stay in a hermitage, and pray the stations of the cross along the shores of a pond. Just a mile away one can pick up the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and follow in the footsteps of the thirty families (240 men, women, and children) of the Anza Expedition who traveled from Mexico in 1776 to colonize San Francisco. For more information, visit www.stfrancisretreat.com.

MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA

Saint Junípero Serra founded Mission San Antonio de Padua, the 3rd of the 21 California missions, on July 14, 1771. The padres there lived and worked with the Salinan Indian converts. It is the furthest inland mission and the remotest. It is loved for its isolation and authenticity (the retreat center does not even have Wi-Fi). The mission is located next door to a military base in present-day Monterey County. A must is the 25-mile drive to the Pacific Ocean via Nacimiento-Fergusson Road. The winding road with precipitous drops is not for the faint of heart. For more information, visit www.missionsanantonio.net.

MISSION SANTA CRUZ

Father Fermín Francisco de Lasuén founded Mission Santa Cruz (la Exaltacion de la Santa Cruz), the 12th of the 21 California missions, on August 28, 1791. A few miles from the Mission and overlooking the Pacific Ocean is Villa Maria del Mar, owned and operated by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. A short drive (or walk) north one can visit the Shrine of St. Joseph, Guardian and Redeemer. For more information, visit www.villamariadelmar.org and www.shrinestjoseph.com.

Mission Santa Clara - Saint Junípero Serra founded Mission Santa Clara de Asís, the 8th of the 21 California missions and the first mission in California named after a woman, on January 12, 1777. It is located on the campus of Santa Clara University. Camino Serra, a ministry of the Legionaries of Christ community at Our Lady of Santa Clara Retreat Center in Cupertino, is an 85-mile pilgrimage that is done over eight days in the summer. Pilgrims walk from Mission Santa Clara to Mission Santa Cruz to Mission San Carlos Borroméo (1771) and Shrine of Saint Junípero Serra. For more information, visit www.olscretreat.org.

In between two missions, Mission San Francisco de Asís, the 6th of the 21 California missions and Mission Santa Clara de Asís, one finds Vallombrosa Center, a ministry of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Located in Menlo Park, just a few blocks from the El Camino Real (Spanish for “The King’s Highway”), one can imagine Saint Junípero Serra walking close by on his way between Mission San Francisco and Mission Santa Clara. It is a beautiful oasis in an urban setting. If one desires solitude, directly across the street is Corpus Christi Monastery where one can participate in perpetual adoration and attend Mass with the Dominican cloistered nuns. For more information, visit www.vallombrosa.org.

Wherever you are on your life’s journey, buen camino! Junípero Serra, Apostle of California, and Pablo Tac, holy California mission Indian, seminarian, and scholar, pray for us! ¡Siempre adelante y nunca para atrás!

For your planning needs, below is the deadline date to submit articles, flyers, etc. To submit items for our magazine, please use our email address cccl@dioceseoffresno.org. Our phone number is 559 488-7448. The *Central California Catholic Life* magazine

will be available for parishes and interested persons to view on our diocesan website. The *Central California Catholic Life* magazine Editor is Sr. Rosalie Rohrer, IHM and lead graphic designer Alberto Sandoval.

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