



**DIOCESE OF FRESNO
PASTORAL CENTER**

1550 NORTH FRESNO STREET
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93703-3788
TELEPHONE (559) 488-7400

June 12, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Each year, especially during the springtime, the Diocese of Fresno Pastoral Center receives calls from people reporting the celebration of sacraments such as baptisms, first communions, confirmations, and marriages that take place at homes or other non-parish locations. People are confused because the celebrations appear to be Roman Catholic in many ways, including the attire of the minister. People report that substantial fees are paid to the "ministers" involved and the "catechetical programs" that help "prepare" the children/youth, if any preparation is provided at all.

It is very important for those who are practicing Roman Catholics to know which parishes in our eight counties are indeed part of the Diocese of Fresno, which is in union with the Pope, so that they are not confused and led astray.

All parishes are listed on our diocesan website at: www.dioceseoffresno.org. Or, inquirers can call the main number of the Chancery Office and a staff member will be happy to assist. The number is 559-488-7400.

Facts:

- These other non-diocesan celebrations of sacraments have no affiliation with the Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Fresno whatsoever – even if they claim that they do.
- Therefore, the sacraments that are being celebrated are not in conformity with the Roman Catholic Church.
- Since the Diocese of Fresno has no affiliation with these catechetical programs and/or celebrations of sacraments the children/youth involved do not have the same safe environment protections as the children/youth attending parish programs in the Diocese of Fresno.

The priests, deacons, religious and lay ministers who serve our parish communities look forward to assisting you so that the Sacraments you desire for yourself, and your family can be celebrated according to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and be a beautiful experience of God's grace in your life. May God's blessing be with you and your family.

In Christ,

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