

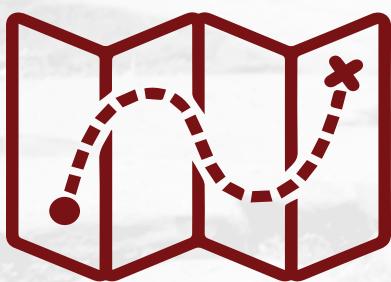


The Road to Cardinal

San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy

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Journey Begins...

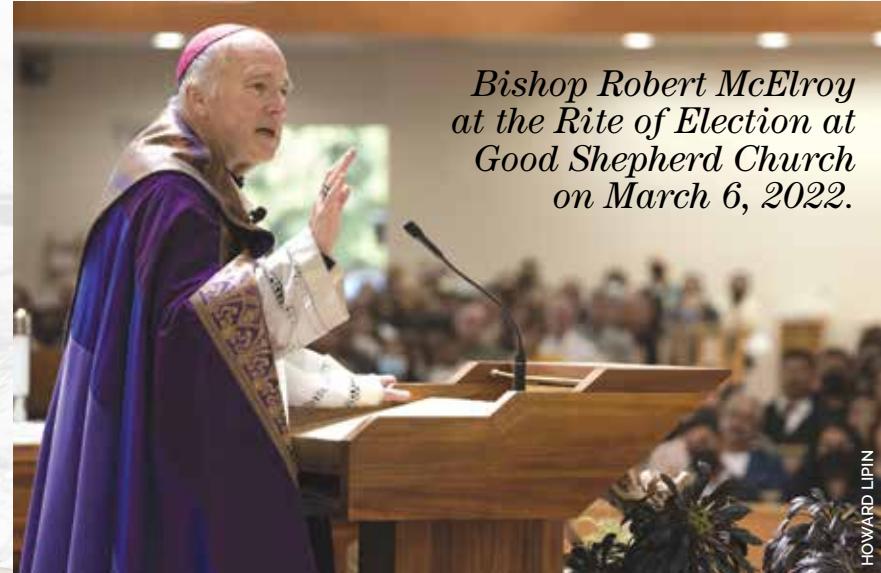
"Father Bob." Bishop Robert McElroy occasionally says that was his favorite title in his religious career. Starting on Aug. 27, he's going to have a new one in the Catholic Church: "Cardinal." That day he will be elevated to that rank by Pope Francis, officially joining the College of Cardinals. This section explores Bishop McElroy's extraordi-

nary road to Rome, stopping along the way to highlight events that have shaped the San Diego Diocese under his leadership. We will explain the role of a cardinal — there's never been one from this region — and tell you how you can see the glorious assembly at the Vatican that will elevate San Diego's shepherd to the world stage.

'I Didn't Want to Leave'

When the news broke of his elevation to the College of Cardinals, many assumed this meant that Bishop McElroy would be leaving San Diego, moving to a bigger city to serve in an archdiocese. But he announced that he will be staying in San Diego, making the diocese the only one in the United States to be headed by a cardinal.

"I'm particularly pleased that I will be remaining in San Diego," he said at a press conference May 31. "It's a beautiful city and I didn't want to leave it."



"This is a moment when the Church says to you: 'Welcome! We are overjoyed to have you.'"

— Bishop McElroy
Bishop of San Diego



Pope Francis greeted Bishop McElroy on Jan. 27, 2022, at the Vatican.

'Stunned and Deeply Surprised'

Bishop McElroy started receiving texts around 3:30 a.m. on May 29, waking him up. One after another started the same way: "Congratulations!"

"Congratulations for what?" he wondered.

Within moments, he would discover the news: At the end of his "Regina Coeli" address in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis had announced 21 new cardinals, the bishop among them. (Retired Archbishop Lucas Van Looy of Ghent, Belgium, subsequently declined the honor, bringing the number down to 20.)

"Let us pray for the new cardinals so that, in confirming their adhesion to Christ, they may help me in my ministry as bishop of Rome for the good of the entire holy people of God," the pope said.

A few hours later, the cardinal-designate released a statement of his own:

"I am stunned and deeply surprised by the news that Pope Francis has appointed me to the College of Cardinals. My prayer is that, in this ministry, I might be of additional service to the God who has graced me on so many levels in my life. And I pray also that I can assist the Holy Father in his pastoral renewal of the Church."

"In this moment, I give thanks for those who have contributed profoundly to my life and priesthood: my family, the priests and women religious who helped to form me, and the Catholic community of San Diego and Imperial counties, whom it is my privilege to lead."

Receiving the Call



By The Numbers

Bishops from San Diego Diocese ever elevated to cardinal.....	0
Church leaders from North America being elevated to cardinal on Aug. 27	1
U.S. dioceses headed by a cardinal (Diocese of San Diego).....	1
Bishops among the 20 elevated to cardinal on Aug. 27.....	5
Active cardinals from the U.S., including Cardinal McElroy	10
Church leaders being elevated to cardinal on Aug. 27	20
Cardinals under age 80 eligible to select Pope Francis' successor	132
Active bishops and archbishops in Latin and Eastern Churches in the U.S.	188
Bishops in Latin and Eastern Churches in the world.....	5,600
People who identify as Catholic in San Diego and Imperial counties (SD Diocese)	1.2 million
People who identify as Catholic in the U.S.....	72 million
People who identify as Catholic in the world.....	1.2 billion

Intelligent, and Humble with Passion to Serve

On Saturday, Aug. 27, in front of thousands in St. Peter's Basilica and millions around the globe, 20 men from five continents will hear their names read aloud by Pope Francis, announcing to the world that they have been elevated to the College of Cardinals. All of them will serve as advisors to His Holiness; 15 will be future electors of the next pope. Among those cardinal-electors will be San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy.

Bishop McElroy will be the first person named a cardinal from the diocese and will be the only voting member of the College of Cardinals west of Houston. As a cardinal, he will continue to lead the San Diego Diocese.

Bishop McElroy, 68, was born in San Francisco. He was ordained a priest for the San Francisco Archdiocese in 1980 and was consecrated as an auxiliary bishop for San Francisco in 2010, later becoming the bishop of San Diego in 2015.

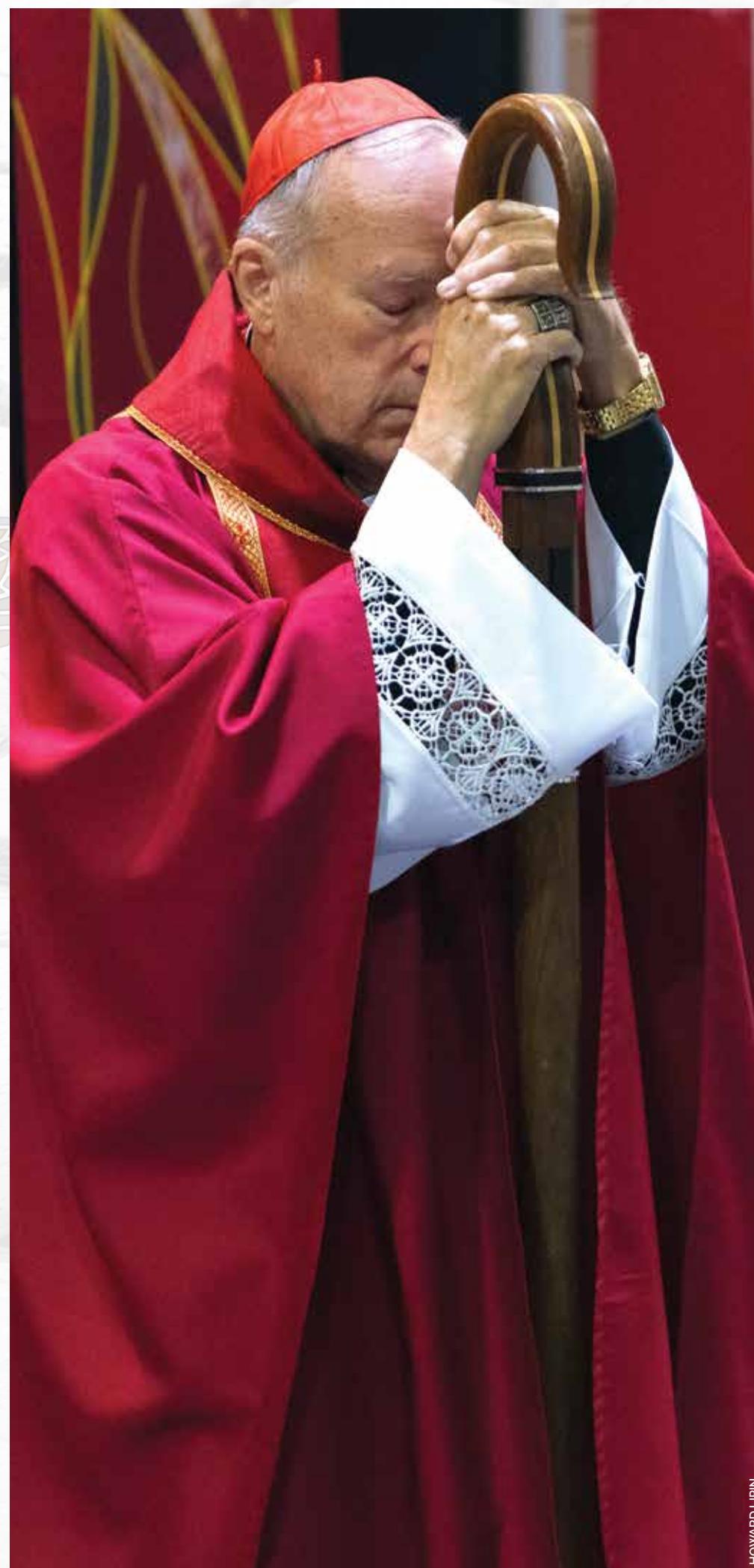
Long-time friends described a man gifted with extraordinary intelligence and superior communication skills, yet humble and friendly. Most of all, they talk about his passion to serve.

"All of us who knew and worked with (Bishop McElroy) knew he would become a cardinal some day," said Santa Fe Archbishop John Wester, who has known and worked with Bishop McElroy for more than 40 years. "The only question was where and would he have to move to New York, Boston or some other major see in order for that to happen. Happily for him, he gets to stay in San Diego, a city he dearly loves."

Like Bishop McElroy, Archbishop Wester began his vocation as a priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, with the two men becoming close friends and colleagues as they each moved through their assignments. Both attended Our Lady of Mercy Grammar School in Daly City and St. Joseph high school seminary, both served as parish priests and both men served as auxiliary bishops in San Francisco. Archbishop Wester headed first to Salt Lake City and then Santa Fe, while Bishop McElroy came to San Diego.

"In his heart, he has never stopped being a pastor," Archbishop Wester said, reflecting on the 14 years Bishop McElroy spent in his final parish assignment as pastor at St. Gregory Parish in San Mateo. "It's the lens through which he sees the world. He is genuinely humble. It's not a put-on, not a false sense of humility. Of all the bishops who might receive 'a red hat,' he's probably the least desirous of it than anyone."

"He has never been ambitious for himself. For him, it's always been about service and what he can do to serve the people of God."



Cardinal-designate Robert McElroy at the Pentecost Mass for All People on June 4, 2022, at Cathedral Catholic High School.

"He wants to shepherd people. I think Pope Francis sees that, and he also sees his brilliance," continued Archbishop Wester. "I could easily see the pope saying to himself, 'This is great. This is marvelous. We can have both of these in the same package.'"

Instead of attending college seminary immediately after high school, Bishop McElroy decided to attend a secular university first and then return to seminary to pursue his vocation. The results were a bachelor's degree from Harvard in American History, and two degrees from Stanford; a master's degree in American History and a Ph.D in Political Science. Upon graduation from St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, he was granted a master's in Divinity (M.Div), followed by a Licentiate in Theology from the Jesuit School of Theology and a doctorate in Moral Theology (STD) from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

As a San Francisco auxiliary bishop and as bishop of San Diego, Bishop McElroy played an active role in the California Catholic Conference (CCC), which represents all 12 California (arch)dioceses on public policy matters in the State Capitol. There he met and worked with Ned Dolejsi, the former executive director of the CCC.

"Bishop McElroy is a deeply pastoral man, who is dedicated to helping people live their faith more fully," said Dolejsi. "His ability to communicate and explain complex issues, while weighing the moral, theological and political factors involved, is uncanny and shows what a gifted communicator he is."

"Whenever the bishops met to create public statements or major policy papers," said Dolejsi, "The first thing they did was to draw Bishop McElroy into the conversation to see if he would prepare the first draft."

Father Tom Reese, a Jesuit priest and expert commentator on national and international issues affecting the Church, said Bishop McElroy first came to national attention 10 years ago when he was a San Francisco auxiliary bishop attending meetings of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"The bishops would be debating issues on the environment or faithful citizenship or other matters of public policy," Father Reese said. "And Bishop McElroy stood out. He was intelligent and articulate. He held their attention. Over time, it was clear the other bishops wanted to hear what he had to say."

"I think those are the same qualities that Pope Francis saw in him and why the pope wanted him to serve on the College of Cardinals."

A New Era Begins in the Diocese

Bishop Robert McElroy was installed as the sixth bishop of San Diego on April 15, 2015, at St. Therese of Carmel Parish in Carmel Valley. In his homily, the bishop foreshadowed the central elements that would illuminate his leadership of the San Diego Diocese.

He opened with a story of two climbers of El Capitan in the Yosemite Valley. One of them had refused to leave the other, who could not ascend the final stretch for 10 days. On the 11th day, the one who had been stuck was able to conquer the final pitch and they were able to reach their goal together. The following are excerpts of the bishop's homily.

"The grace of mutual accompaniment. This was the real miracle that occurred on El Capitan. And it is this grace of mutual accompaniment that must form the heart of the relationship of a bishop with his Local Church."

"The Second Vatican Council teaches that the Church is constantly on a pilgrimage toward the heavenly kingdom, guided always by the Lord. This image of the Church as the pilgrim people of God demands that the ministry of a bishop be enmeshed in a culture of mutual accompaniment that suffuses the local Church."

"Pope Francis has movingly described the elements of Christian accompaniment: It is rooted in a sense of the sacredness of the 'other' and requires a continual stance of listening. Accompaniment reflects the closeness and compassionate gaze of Christ which heals, liberates and encourages growth in the life of the Gospel."

"Accompaniment embraces prudence, understanding, patience and openness to the Spirit. Most importantly of all, mutual accompaniment demands a sense of collabo-



The Pentecost Mass has grown to be the diocese's largest celebration of faith and culture.

DAVID MAUNG



Bishop McElroy at the Sisters Appreciation and Jubilee Celebration on March 12, 2022

AIDA BUSTOS

Journeying Together

"As I begin my ministry of service in this magnificent local Church of San Diego, I pray that it will always be shaped by this vision of mutual accompaniment."

— Bishop McElroy, Bishop of San Diego



Bishop McElroy joined diocesan leaders Marioly Galván and Rodrigo Valdivia at an Encuentro conference on Oct. 17, 2017, at the University of San Diego.

ration among the bishop, the priests who are his primary collaborators, lay leaders, those in consecrated life and the diaconal community, in a manner which deepens the unity of the people of God and increases the harvest of the Gospel within the local Church.

"As I begin my ministry in this magnificent local Church of San Diego, we face three central challenges which the Scriptures and the Universal Church place before us at this moment.

"The first of these challenges is the proclamation of the unlimited mercy of God. Mercy must be the very foundation of the Church's life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers.

"This does not mean evacuating the moral law of its substance and challenge. But it must mean that the Church is called to follow the pastoral pattern of the Lord Himself toward all those He encountered in the Gospels: first embracing them with loving mercy, then healing their wounds, and only then proclaiming the moral law of reform.

"A second challenge is always to witness to the grace of God which is present in the cultural diversity of the Church. In the Diocese of San Diego, virtually every nationality and culture is present. This diversity constitutes a powerful gift of the Holy Spirit palpably present in our midst. There can be no more fitting way to begin my ministry than by fostering an ecclesial culture that honors unity and diversity equally in forging this Body of Christ.

"A third challenge to our local Church is to seek to be a builder of bridges in our contemporary world. The world we experience shatters the fundamental elements of God's divine plan, leaving us broken, alienated and factionalized.

"Seeking to build a culture of mutual accompaniment, proclaiming the extravagant mercy of God, witnessing to the grace of cultural diversity, building bridges to reflect God's vision for the human family — these are central elements of the work that God has set before us. With human eyes, these challenges can seem even more impossible than climbing El Capitan. But in our faith, we are called to see the world with the vision of grace rooted in the Gospel. And we are called to journey forth as pilgrims together, not knowing at times exactly where we are going, but knowing that ultimately it is God who leads us and that, in the end, that is more than enough."

Synod Transforms Ministry to Families

"Think big."

That's what Bishop Robert McElroy urged the delegates of a synod on family life to do in 2016. The goal was to identify measures the diocese and parishes could adopt to revitalize and strengthen marriage and families.

Earlier that year, Pope Francis had presented a document called "Amoris Laetitia" ("Joy of Love"). He had invited bishops to figure out ways to better welcome today's families, respond to their needs and help them to grow in their faith.

Bishop McElroy answered the call by convening a synod, one of the few dioceses in the country to do so.

The family synod is the first of four consultations of the faithful the diocese has undertaken in Bishop McElroy's seven years at the helm. They have engaged thousands of faithful to have a conversation with each other and with their diocese. This is extraordinary given that these diocesan-wide consultations represent a significant investment of resources and time. The last diocesan synod had been held 40 years ago.

The process the bishop used in the family synod would be emblematic of how he would tackle future challenges:

Invite as diverse a group of faithful as is possible to participate in the conversation, listening to their experiences and concerns; encourage them to be creative in their ideas to address those concerns, while staying grounded in the Gospel; trust them as they do their work; and commit at the outset to swiftly implementing their proposals, in consultation with pastors and lay leadership.

By the end of the family synod, around 1,000 faithful had participated in sessions at virtually all parishes. The diocese began implementing the 15 recommendations the delegates had developed within two months of the final meeting.

One of them called for the creation of a new department, the Office for Family Life and Spirituality. The three new staff members immediately got to work. They launched a new marriage preparation program called Witness to Love. The office began to work with parishes to help them to develop spiritual formation through the prism of family life. And its staff began to work to support separated and divorced Catholics.



Delegates at the family synod met in fall of 2016 to develop proposals.

DAVID MAUNG

Welcoming Today's Families



HOWARD LIPIN

Couples celebrated their love and renewed their vows at anniversary Mass on Feb. 12, 2022 at The Immaculata Church at the University of San Diego.



The diocese celebrated a Mass for LGBT Catholics and their families at St. John the Evangelist Church on Oct. 6, 2017.

New Office Offered New Pathways to Heal

To begin to tend to the wounds modern families sustain, the office developed a series of workshops in English and Spanish called "Healing Pathways." They tackled such issues as drug addiction and alcoholism, mental illness and reproductive loss. And they included sessions on how to improve family communication, parenting skills and use of the Internet.

The synod participants identified groups with specific needs hungry for pastoral support. These included young married couples and couples who had been married for some time. The new office developed programming and resources for them, and encouraged parishes to do the same.

Gays and their family members made up another group whose members had articulated in the listening sessions that they felt marginalized in the Church. The new office began to support parishes that wanted to launch or strengthen ministries to accompany this community.

Paulist Father John Hurley, a national leader in evangelization strategies, coordinated the family synod. He said that "it was a joy to watch and listen to Bishop" in dialogue with all the participants.

"His capacity to open his heart and listen to anyone is the mark of a true shepherd," he said. "He listened them into existence!"



DAVID MAUNG

A diversity of young adult voices shared their experiences and dreams for the Church at a general assembly on Oct. 27, 2019, at the Pastoral Center.

Young Adults

Encountering 'Hispanic Moment' of Our Church

In January of 2017, a consultation began nationwide to discern ways the Catholic Church could better respond to the growing Hispanic presence. Latinos constitute 39 percent of adult Catholics in the U.S. — and about 60 percent of the diocese.

By the time the Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic Ministry ended nearly four years later, around 142,000 Latinos had participated nationwide, 1,360 of them from the San Diego Diocese. They had met at "encuentros" at the parish, diocesan, regional and national levels, accompanied by Bishop McElroy.

The proposals from those gatherings were used to develop a pastoral plan for all levels of the Church. It focuses on five areas: leadership development, social justice, "pastoral juvenil" (young adult ministry), families, and catechesis and formation. The pandemic slowed implementation, but this work has resumed.

At the diocese, Hispanic faithful formed a Solidarity Community last year, in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services, to influence legislative decisions that affect the most vulnerable. Most recently, the diocese committed to bringing the Fifth Encuentro Ministry Series to local parishes for training in English and Spanish in the five focus areas.

"All of us are gathered here to ask how our Church must grow and change to accompany the enormous grace of this Hispanic moment in the Church of the U.S.," Bishop McElroy said at the diocesan Encuentro on Oct. 17, 2017. "Let us walk together today, patiently and confidently, just like God accompanied His disciples on the road to Emmaus."



**V
Encuentro**

Diocese Convened Synod to Welcome Young Adults

In the fall of 2019, Bishop Robert McElroy convened a synod that asked young adults from every parish to "dream big" about how they would create a Church that engaged their generation and helped them to grow in their faith.

The synod, titled "Christ Lives! A Time of Dreams and Decisions," built on the consultation the diocese convened in 2016 that resulted in the transformation of the way the local Church welcomes and serves today's families.

Both synods were inspired by Pope Francis, who urged bishops worldwide to update their ministries to serve families and young adults in separate teaching documents. In "Christus Vivit" (Christ Lives), issued in March of 2019, the pope reflected on the challenges young people face today and encouraged them to be vibrant voices in the Church.

As in the family synod, the bishop sought out a diversity of young adult voices, ages 18 to 39, who were active in the Church and those who considered themselves unaffiliated. They represented a variety of social, economic and cultural backgrounds, including from the military, "Dreamers," and LGBTQ, among others.

More than 230 young adults met in seven deanery (cluster) meetings and shared their experiences in the Church and proposed ways the diocese and parishes could support them and nurture their spiritual life. In late October, around 130 of them met in a General Assembly to flesh out the ideas that emerged from those meetings and to form recommendations, which the bishop had pledged to implement.



DAVID MAUNG

Young adults at the final session of the synod on Nov. 9, 2019, at Mission San Diego de Alcalá.

Young Adults to Serve in Diocesan, Parish Leadership Roles

Among the proposals were calls for each geographical cluster of parishes, or deanery, to better accommodate young adults by scheduling Masses and confession times on weekday evenings; and for each parish to add a line item to its budget for young adult ministry.

Bishop McElroy also issued a few recommendations of his own: that, by the end of 2022, young adults would fill 25 percent of the liturgical and leadership roles at each of the diocese's 98 parishes; that he would appoint the same percentage of young adults to various boards and commissions at the diocesan level.

An implementation committee was beginning its work when COVID-19 began its deadly march across the world in early 2020. The group suspended its planning amid lockdowns and quarantines.

Its work resumed earlier this year. Each of the seven deaneries has convened a young adult leadership team to share programs and events across each region, one of the first recommendations.

"The priorities set forth by the Young Adult Synod remain at the forefront as we emerge from the pandemic, which halted much of the progress that was underway," said diocesan Chancellor Marioly Galván.



DAVID MAUNG

Bishop Robert McElroy convened all employees of the San Diego Diocese on Aug. 13, 2019, the first such meeting in its history, to call on them to fight child abuse. They met at the University of San Diego.

Extraordinary Response to Child Abuse

“The monstrous crime of the sexual abuse of children and young people,” as the pope calls it, is arguably the most painful issue the Catholic Church confronts today.

Bishop Robert McElroy has responded to this issue in extraordinary ways.

In the summer of 2018, a grand jury in Pennsylvania released a searing report detailing decades of child abuse by clergy there. The report, along with other revelations of abuse involving the Church’s highest ranks, reignited the outrage over past scandals.

In response, the bishop took to the road to personally meet with the faithful at parishes in San Diego and Imperial counties. The diocese held eight sessions where members of the community could ask the bishop questions and he could listen to their concerns. The participants expressed disappointment, sadness, at times anger.

“We’re in a terrible, wrenching moment in the life of our Church,” the bishop told the participants at the first one, at Our Mother of Confidence Parish.

At these meetings, he acknowledged past failures by the Church hierarchy to protect children. And he explained what the diocese had been doing for 20 years to



Bishop McElroy held the first of eight sessions with the faithful on the issue of sexual abuse on Oct. 1, 2018, at Our Mother of Confidence Church.

Protecting Our Children

protect children in schools and parishes. The bishop told them that there had not been any credible allegation of such abuse at the diocese since he had arrived in 2015, which still holds true today.

The following May, Pope Francis demanded a response from the entire Church to root out the scourge of sex abuse.

In response, Bishop McElroy did something that had never been done in the history of the diocese. On Aug. 13, 2019, he brought all employees together for the first time — more than 2,500. He did so to raise awareness of the devastating impact of child abuse and to call on every single staff member to report abuse anywhere they suspected it might be happening, not just those mandated to do so.

And he announced two measures the diocese was undertaking to further assist victims in their healing.

He said the diocese would participate in an Independent Compensation Program, giving victims a fresh opportunity to present a claim. The program would assess claims fairly quickly, totally independent of the diocese.

The diocese launched the program the following month. (By its end two years later, the diocese had paid \$7,655,000 to 59 people who accepted offers to settle their claims.)

And the bishop also announced that he had recently expanded the scope of the diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator. This staff member would not only receive the reports of potential abuse but also help form healing groups for survivors and their families and develop educational programs for parishes.

“We cannot erase the horror of this history, nor can we restore the shattered souls and hearts and lives of those who have been victimized,” Bishop McElroy told staff members. “But we can move forward, as Pope Francis calls us to, utterly resolved to continually expel the sexual abuse of minors from the internal life of the Church, and equally resolved to help transform families and society to purge the epidemic of sexual abuse that rages in our midst.”

Diocese Responds to Environmental Crisis

"I ask every parish community and every believer to see the call to save the earth as God speaking directly to us in the depths of our soul."

That is how Bishop Robert McElroy introduced the diocese's Creation Care Action Plan, a sweeping blueprint released last fall that calls for the region's families, parishes and schools to take steps to care for creation.

It's one of the projects of the diocese's Creation Care Ministry, launched by Bishop McElroy five years ago in response to Pope Francis' monumental encyclical "Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home." The pope urged everyone across the world to work together to reverse environmental degradation, which takes its greatest toll on the world's poorest.

In its most significant project, the diocese assists parishes and schools to install solar power systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. More than half of its 97 parishes have done so, an investment so far of nearly \$30 million.

Paz Artaza-Regan, of the Catholic Climate Covenant in Washington, D.C., said that the San Diego Diocese has become "a leader on creation care" and, for many, is "the example of what their diocese could do."

"We are thankful for (Cardinal-designate McElroy's) personal leadership and for his moving his diocese to a path of sustainability," she said. "I believe that his commitment to living and teaching 'Laudato Si' is one of the reasons the Holy Father chose to elevate him to the College of Cardinals."



Faithful from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church planted a tree at the Camargo home in Barrio Logan on March 19, 2022.

AIDA BUSTOS

Ministry Promotes Study and Action



Creation Care Ministry members, with Father Emmet Farrell

Until a few weeks ago, the diocese's Creation Care Ministry was an all-volunteer effort led by a retired priest, Father Emmet Farrell.

The volunteers have devoted the last few years to educating parish communities about environmental stewardship and encouraging them to start their own Creation Care Teams.

"We're trying to emphasize two things: study and action," said Father Farrell. "We've been strong perhaps on the study, not so strong on the action."

The team urges parishes and schools to develop projects that make sense for them. Some parishes have made environmentally friendly changes to their landscaping, while others have traded plastic and Styrofoam cups for biodegradable alternatives.

Several schools have planted sustainable gardens that not only serve as great learning laboratories for the students, but provide fruits and vegetables to the needy.

Most recently, the team has been working with parishes, schools and families to plant sustainable trees, particularly in poorer areas with scarce vegetation.

At churches, Father Farrell sometimes encounters critics who argue that the climate change issue is "all politics." He has a response for them:

"It's very spiritual. It's your stewardship of what God has given you, and we're contaminating it and wasting it, and that's a sin."

As of July, the ministry has a paid director, part of the Office for Life, Peace and Justice. Only a handful of dioceses have a staff member to lead this work full-time.

Educating and Inspiring Action



Bishop McElroy with Veerabhadran Ramanathan

Bishop McElroy is a leading voice about the urgent need to change the current culture to confront not only climate change but the health of society itself.

He was the keynote speaker at the conference, "Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church," held at Creighton University in June 2019. The event brought together faith and environmental leaders to find ways to integrate "Laudato Si'" more deeply into the Church.

He spoke at a forum, "A New Alliance Between Science, Religion and Policy," organized by the San Diego Diocese. Lay Catholic leaders, educators, priests and religious women attended the event in October 2019.

The bishop and the other speaker, renowned climate scientist Veerabhadran Ramanathan, noted that there were about 10 years left to change course before climate change reached a crisis level. Both said science and faith had to work together to avert further catastrophe.

Care for Creation



Bishop McElroy celebrated Earth Week Mass at St. James Church on April 17, 2021.

JOHN GASTALDO

Excerpt from Bishop McElroy's speech "Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church":

"For us in the U.S. at this perilous moment in our history, the core themes of 'Laudato Si'' are especially urgent. We stand, deeply estranged from one another, seething in divisions and unwilling to reconcile. We are the most powerful nation in the history of the earth, yet have rejected the only realistic pathways that have emerged to heal our broken planet. When Europeans came to the New World, they were often drawn by a vision of a New Paradise in which the raw beauty of the original creation was untouched. Now the earth calls out to us in agony, and we remain blind to the harm that we are inflicting more deeply with every passing year. 'Laudato Si'' is a call to reforge the bonds of solidarity that have been at the core of every advance that we have made as a people."

Shepherd Advocates for Life at Every Turn

At every opportunity, Bishop Robert McElroy advocates for the sacredness of life, from conception to natural death.

He's led every one of the San Diego Diocese's Walks for Life since arriving in 2015, in rain or shine.

Before COVID-19, attendance at this event had gone up every year, numbering several thousands, including a greater participation of young people.

The bishop called for this public testimony to continue as a car caravan in 2021, during the teeth of the pandemic, instead of canceling the event altogether.

"Those who say life in the womb is not human life are testifying to a lie," Bishop McElroy declared at the 2018 Walk for Life, "and we are here because we want to be witnesses testifying to the truth of God's grace in the womb, and from conception until natural death."

As president of the California Catholic Conference, Bishop McElroy promotes the Whole Person Care Initiative. Developed in partnership with the state's Catholic health care systems, the initiative aims to create an environment where the ill and dying feel loved, worthy and cared for.

This project calls for parishes to receive information about the Catholic teaching on the end of life and how to better support their members who are chronically ill or face terminal diagnoses and their families.

Protection of Life

"While we celebrate the decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, in many ways, our work has just begun."

— Bishop McElroy, Bishop of San Diego



Participants of the Walk for Life on Jan. 15, 2022, celebrated their ability to gather together once more to champion life.

THE ROAD TO CARDINAL



Bishop McElroy led a car caravan promoting life on Jan. 30, 2021, along San Diego's waterfront.

AIDA BUSTOS

'We Have to Re-double Our Efforts'

On Jan. 15, 2022, Bishop McElroy led the annual San Diego Walk for Life. Though the U.S. Supreme Court had not yet overturned *Roe v. Wade*, he predicted it would happen and called on the faithful re-double their efforts to protect the unborn:

"This is a great moment of hope, and it is a moment to give thanks to God and all of those who have worked this past half-century to bring this about."

"I was in college when the Supreme Court first issued its decision in *Roe v. Wade*. I remember being tremendously saddened by it and wondered: Would we ever see a day when the rights of the unborn were affirmed by the court again? ..."

"In California (where no change will occur), this is a moment not to downsize our efforts but to re-double them."

"We have to convince the people in this state — and I believe we have the capacity to do that over time — that the unborn child in the womb is precious and that, as we know, God is the author of all life, and we're merely stewards of life on this earth."

"We have to continue to educate and to convert minds and hearts, to point to the unborn child and help others see the preciousness of that life."

"In an ultrasound, parents see their child and know that it's a human life. We need to bring home that sense, and the implications for it, in terms of how our laws can protect the unborn."



The faithful in El Centro prayed for an end to abortion on Feb. 23, 2020.



Catholic Charities partnered with parishes, which provided volunteers to distribute bags of emergency food.

Agency Steps Up in Unprecedented Crisis

On March 12, 2020, the pandemic was beginning to pick up steam in the San Diego region and beyond. Health authorities had begun to shut down one sector after another.

"What can we do?" Bishop Robert McElroy asked the executive director of Catholic Charities, "Vino" Pajanor.

The agency mobilized, building on contacts its staff had already developed at parishes.

It launched the Emergency Food Distribution Network on April 6, just 18 days after Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered all but essential workers to stay at home to slow the virus.

The network was initially composed of 21 parishes in San Diego and Imperial counties that distributed food to low-income families and homebound individuals from parishes.

Volunteers handed out packages of non-perishable food items to people in their cars who drove-through. They also delivered them to the doorstep of those unable to leave their homes.

In the first week of the distribution, the parishes served a total of 2,500 households. The next week, they served about 5,000, with that number surging to 10,000 by the fourth week.



The homebound received meals from agency staff members and volunteers.



The agency scrambled to deliver fresh food during the pandemic.

Faith in Action

"Justice, compassion, and outreach are a dimension of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and what it means to be Catholic."

— Bishop McElroy, Bishop of San Diego

Agency Poised to Open Shelter

The number of homeless individuals has soared in recent years, with women and families making up a greater share of the unsheltered.

Catholic Charities is poised to open a day center for homeless men and women in El Centro. It will be the first of its kind in Imperial County, providing basic and wraparound services for men and women, though not housing.

The 4,997-square-foot, pre-fabricated modular building will have a kitchen, dining area, showers, men's and women's restrooms, laundry room, freezer, cooler, storage areas, a meeting room, and beds to accommodate up to 400 people.

The \$2.5-million center was built with grant funds from the state Homeless Emergency Assistance Program. Supply-chain issues have delayed its opening for nearly a year. But the agency's director hopes that it will open by the end of summer.

Bishop McElroy participated in the groundbreaking for the building last August.

"Everyone working together in all of these different agencies are collaborators in carrying out the work and fleshing out the notion that we are all a family, and that solidarity in our society is so important, particularly in times of hardship," the bishop said.



Bishop Robert McElroy joined representatives of several agencies at the groundbreaking for a day center for the homeless in El Centro on Aug. 30, 2021.

'Our Faith Inspires Us'

"Vino" Pajanor, executive director of Catholic Charities, said the organization has been working around the clock to humanely receive thousands of immigrants and refugees, under the leadership of Bishop Robert McElroy.

The organization has led the effort along the California-Mexico border to receive immigrants — primarily impoverished women and children — seeking asylum in the United States. Its staff helps these migrants, legally in the country, to reach their final destination elsewhere.

The staff also has scrambled to welcome refugees from Afghanistan, after the collapse of their government.

State social service officials — impressed with the quality, agility and approach of this service — have expanded their contracts with the organization. Most recently they selected it to oversee the resettlement of Afghan refugees in all of Southern California.



DAVID MAUNG

Bishop Robert McElroy participated in rally for detained immigrants at the Otay Mesa Detention Center on June 23, 2018.



A family arrived at a shelter in El Centro in April of 2021 operated by Catholic Charities to assist migrants.

Welcoming the Stranger

Organization Rises to the Challenge

Thousands of families have made their way to the U.S.-Mexico border to apply to the U.S. for asylum. Fleeing violence, war, poverty and persecution, they arrive with nothing more than a profound hope for a better life.

Under Bishop McElroy's leadership, Catholic Charities has dramatically expanded its operations in the last two years to meet this need.

"That's what we're called to do as people of faith," Pajanor said.

The organization opened up two shelters, just one example of how the organization has stepped up to help immigrants, and refugees. It operates one of the shelters at a hotel in San Diego, where migrants receive an initial health screening, including a test for COVID, plus a room and meals. Its staff helps them to connect to loved ones across the country, and coordinates their travel, all within a day or two of arriving.

Catholic Charities helped a total of 46,696 immigrants from May 2021 to May of this year, a total that included 16,491 children, or an average of 127 per day.

In the Imperial Valley, the agency assisted 17,739 migrants from April 2021 to May of this year, including 5,433 children, an average of 48 a day.

The organization is assisting a growing number of refugees arriving in the region after several years when their numbers dropped. It served 1,192 refugees, including 422 children, from Oct. 1, 2021, to the end of May.

Bishop Urges People of Faith to Act

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops advocates for Congress to pass immigration reform. Bishop McElroy powerfully delivers that message across the San Diego region and beyond.

In June 28, 2021, he joined an interfaith prayer vigil in front of the U.S. federal courthouse in downtown San Diego being held to urge people of faith to press their members of Congress to reform the immigration system.

He said that, many times, Congress had appeared ready to act to offer a pathway to legalize at least some of the 11 million undocumented migrants, only to fail to do so at the last minute.

"We can't stand by anymore and watch our political processes — broken as they are — destroy the dreams and the hopes of the refugees and the immigrants who have not only come here and lived here but have helped build our nation and make it better," he said in his remarks.

He urged all people of faith to act.

"We have to stand up and we have to demand action, to greet the stranger who comes to our border, especially those who are refugees and seeking asylum," he said. "And also, for those who have been part of our society for a decade, two decades or three decades, and say to them, 'You are one of us' and mean it."

He noted that the experience of fleeing injustice and repression and having to move to another place is "at the very center" of the Christian, Jewish or Muslim faith.

"Often people say, well, I believe in the faith, but that's not primary for me; it's a secondary issue," he said. "But in our experiences — as peoples of faith — the experience of being refugees, the experience of being enslaved and threatened, these are not secondary from us; they are right at the core."

"We stand in vigil with those in Washington who are putting themselves on the line ... to change our broken immigration system, to truly welcome the refugees. Let us stand with them, let us unite with them across the whole of this nation. And let us do so as people of faith, because that is what our faith calls us to do."



AIDA BUSTOS

Bishop Robert McElroy spoke at a rally on June 28, 2021, to call for immigration reform.

'Powerful Gift of Cultural Diversity'

In the very first homily he delivered in the Diocese of San Diego, Bishop Robert McElroy noted that virtually every nationality and culture was vibrantly present in the local Church.

"Cultural diversity constitutes a powerful gift of the Holy Spirit palpably here in our midst," he said, and he pledged to foster a Church culture "that honors unity and diversity equally in forming this Body of Christ."

Under his leadership, the diocese has strengthened the cultural communities, added new ones to the fold, and raised their profile in the local Church. He's invited their leaders to participate in decision-making councils and commissions at the diocese. The diverse voices, united in their love of God, serve as a powerful antidote to divisions roiling society.

In 2017, the bishop re-energized the Office for Ethnic and Intercultural Communities and tapped Father Michael Pham, himself a refugee from Vietnam, to lead it.

Father Pham and his assistants have worked tirelessly to help the communities to preserve their faith traditions and to share them with the greater Catholic community. They include African American, Chinese, Filipino, Hispanic, Italian, Korean, Laotian, Native American, Samoan and Vietnamese communities.

In 2018, the office invited all of the diocese's cultures to come together for the inaugural Pentecost Mass for All People, to be celebrated by Bishop McElroy. Around 1,600 faithful packed Good Shepherd Church, many clad in their native attire, for this colorful feast of faith and culture.

Attendance of the beautiful Mass has grown since then, as have the number of communities participating. The fifth annual edition, held this past June 4, drew more than 2,000 faithful.

In collaboration with Father Pham, the bishop has empowered cultural leaders to develop events and programs meaningful to them and the diocese. They organized five online forums, called "My Church, My Story: Listen, Dialogue and Action," from August of 2020 to February of 2021.

Each forum featured speakers who shared their story about how racism had affected their life, particularly in the Church. Then, participants were invited to propose ways their parishes, diocese and the Church itself could root out racism.

The Office organized special Masses, celebrated by the bishop, to call attention to the pain two populations were enduring and to pray for racial healing. The first was held on June 7, 2020, for the African American community in the wake of the killing of George Floyd. The second one was held April 15, 2021, to accompany the Asian and Pacific Islander communities, which had been the target of assaults and deadly violence across the country.

Semret Kelit, whose roots are in Eritrea, helped to organize the forums on racism.

"It says a lot about what we can do in our Church if given an opportunity to participate," she said. "We can contribute. We can implement. We can be part of change."



The Eritrean Catholic community in San Diego held its Christmas Mass on Jan. 4, 2020, at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish.

DAVID MAUNG

Multicultural Diversity



HOWARD LIPIN

The number of cultural communities participating in the Pentecost Mass has grown each year. The diocese held the 2021 Mass outdoors at Good Shepherd Church.



Bishop McElroy celebrated the bicentennial Mass at the Santa Ysabel Indian Mission on Sept. 16, 2018.

Source and Summit of Faith

The statistic was shocking: Only one-third of U.S. Catholics believe that the bread and wine at Mass are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ, according to a national survey released in August 2019.

Fast-forward to the summer of 2021, when health authorities lifted the remaining restrictions on gathering indoors as COVID-19 eased its grip.

Attendance at places of worship had plunged during the pandemic. How to use this moment to renew the faithful's love of the Eucharist, and inspire them to return to Mass regularly?

To Bishop Robert McElroy, the answer was to launch an ambitious, seven-week program at every one of the diocese's 98 parishes to increase the faithful's understanding of and affection for the Blessed Sacrament.

The program was unprecedented in scope and challenged the diocese, parishes and pastors to bring it to life. It called for all parishes to hear the same videotaped homily on three consecutive Sundays. These were followed by three weeks of "teaching Masses," where parts of the Mass were explained during the celebration. And it all ended with the pastor at each parish proclaiming a homily that underscored the importance of the Eucharist. All was presented in the faithful's preferred language of English, Spanish or Vietnamese.

"It is my deepest hope that these weeks will be for us all a time to grow in our love for and understanding of this most beautiful sacrament and, in doing so, come closer to the God who has bestowed upon us every blessing we know in this world," the bishop said at its launch last Sept. 12.

A year later, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops launched its own initiative, the National Eucharistic Revival, also to increase Catholics' understanding of the Real Presence in the Eucharist. The three-year initiative calls for special events at the local, regional and national level.

With the Eucharist Initiative under their belt, the faithful of the San Diego Diocese already have a head start.

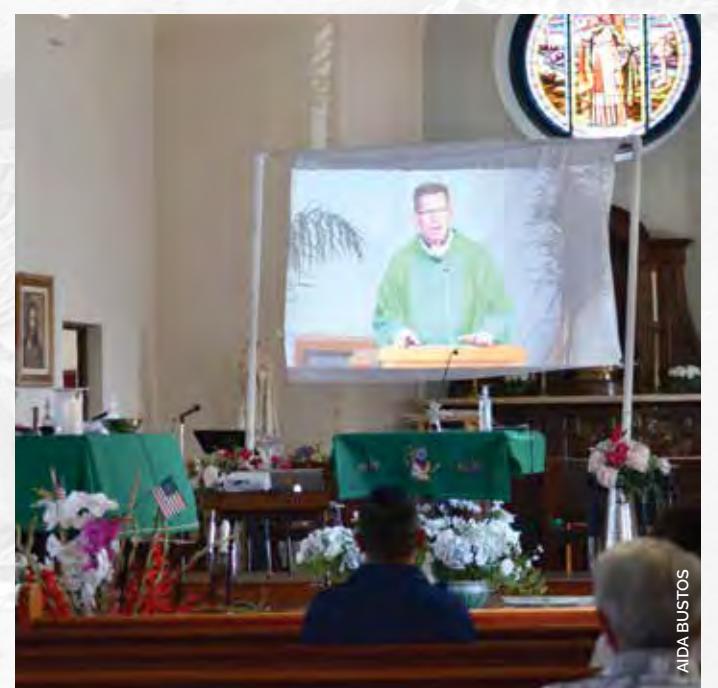
Eucharist Initiative

"Even for those who have always been coming to Mass, the more people understand about the grace, and the depth, and the richness of this self-donation of Christ in the Eucharist, the deeper the relationship between the people and God will be."

— Bishop McElroy, Bishop of San Diego



Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano participated in a Corpus Christi procession on June 26, 2022, in downtown San Diego, the local launch of the U.S. bishops' Eucharistic Revival.



All parishes played the same homily on the same Sunday during the diocese's Eucharist Initiative last fall.

An alb is a white garment that reminds us of our baptismal priesthood. It is worn by clergy and may be worn by laity when serving in a liturgical ministerial role, such as altar server.



Deacons

The vestments proper to the deacon are the dalmatic worn over the alb and stole. A stole, which symbolizes the mark of ordination, is a long, narrow strip of cloth; those worn by deacons rest on the left shoulder, run diagonally across the body and are joined at the right hip. At any given Mass, the stole and dalmatic are the color indicated by the liturgical calendar: green for Ordinary Time; violet for Advent and Lent; red for Pentecost, Passion, and commemorations of martyrs; white for Christmas, Easter, and other solemn occasions; and rose for Gaudete and Laetare Sundays.



Priests

The vestments proper to the priest celebrant at Mass are a chasuble, the outer garment, worn over the alb and stole. A priest's stole, unlike a deacon's, hangs around the neck and down the front; it also is worn when administering sacraments outside of Mass. Like the deacon's stole and dalmatic, the priest's stole and chasuble are color-coordinated with the liturgical calendar.



Bishops

A bishop receives three episcopal insignia, or symbols of the pastoral office, at his ordination: a ring; a tall, pointed, ceremonial cap called a miter; and a crosier, or pastoral staff. The ring symbolizes fidelity to the Church, his spouse. The miter symbolizes the hope of meriting an unfading crown of glory. The crosier is a symbol of authority and jurisdiction. Bishops also wear a pectoral cross as a symbol of the office and the pontifical dignity.



When celebrating Mass, a bishop wears an alb; a stole; a chasuble; a purple zucchetto, or skullcap; a miter; a pectoral cross, worn over the alb; and a ring. He also carries the crosier.



The bishop's vestments for non-liturgical functions include a black cassock with piping and red-silk stitching, red button-holes and buttons, but without the oversleeves; the elbow-length cape, trimmed in the same manner as the cassock, may be worn over it. Also worn on these occasions is the zucchetto; the pectoral cross, hanging from a chain; and a purple silk sash, with silk fringes at both ends.

The bishop wears "choir dress" when attending a liturgy in which he is not the celebrant. Choir dress consists of a purple cassock; a purple silk sash; a white linen vestment called a rochet; a purple mozzetta, which is a short cape with a hood; and a pectoral cross which, in this instance, is worn on a cord of green interwoven with gold strands rather than on a chain as in non-liturgical settings.

Symbols and Vestments

Cardinals

To symbolize his bond with the papacy, each newly appointed cardinal is given a gold ring by the pope. When someone kisses the ring, this is done as a sign of respect for the cardinal's position in the Church and the authority in the faith that comes with it.



Celebrating Mass:

When celebrating Mass, cardinals wear an alb; stole; chasuble; zucchetto, which unlike the purple one worn by a bishop, is scarlet; miter; pectoral cross; and ring.



Choir Dress:

Scarlet choir dress vestments are worn for public prayer apart from the celebration of Mass or when attending Mass but not as a celebrant. When in choir dress, a cardinal wears his scarlet cassock, mozzetta, zucchetto and biretta. He also wears a rochet, which is always white. Unlike the other vestments, which are always the same for all cardinals, the rochet can differ in design and intricacies. The pectoral cross is worn on a cord of red interwoven with gold strands.



Non-Liturgical Vestments:

Cardinals wear a simar, which resembles a cassock but has an optional elbow-length shoulder cape, for non-liturgical functions. Black with scarlet piping, silk stitching and buttons, the simar is worn with a scarlet sash made of silk and may be worn with the zucchetto, but not with the biretta, a three-peaked, square cap with a tuft. The pectoral cross hangs from a chain.



Join Us in *Rome*

Consistory Highlights in Rome

The faithful from the San Diego Diocese will be able to view the colorful assembly where Pope Francis will elevate Bishop Robert McElroy and 19 others to the College of Cardinals at the Vatican on Aug. 27. The assembly, called a consistory, will be livestreamed, as will be the first Mass Cardinal McElroy celebrates as a cardinal the following day.

Two days later, Pope Francis will celebrate Mass with the entire College of Cardinals, a Mass that also will be live-streamed.

The community may also follow their shepherd's journey in Rome on the diocese's bilingual social media channels: Facebook (@DioceseSanDiego) and Instagram (@SDCatholics).

More information about this historic moment in the life of the Diocese of San Diego will be available on its website, sdcatholic.org.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, AUG. 26

Reception in honor of Cardinal-designate McElroy
Ambassador's Residence
American Embassy
to the Holy See

SATURDAY, AUG. 27

Vatican Consistory & Creation of New Cardinals
4-6 p.m. Rome Time
St. Peter's Basilica
7-9 a.m. Pacific Time

Check
sdcatholic.org
for livestream information

SUNDAY, AUG. 28

Cardinal McElroy
First Mass from Rome
5-6 p.m. Rome Time
St. Patrick's American Parish
8-9 a.m. Pacific Time

Check
sdcatholic.org
for livestream information

MONDAY – TUESDAY, AUG. 29-30

Extraordinary Meeting of College of Cardinals
Topic:
Reform of Roman Curia

TUESDAY, AUG. 30

Closing Mass for College of Cardinals
Time to be determined
St. Peter's Basilica

Check sdcatholic.org for livestream information



- April 14, San Diego's new bishop, Robert McElroy, symbolically knocks on cathedral door
- April 15, Diocese celebrates Bishop's installation Mass
- Aug. 21, Bishop McElroy greets fans from the field at Petco Park's first-ever "Catholic Night"



- Feb. 8, Bishop McElroy leads pastoral staff on procession to border fence in Calexico
- March 18, Bishop tours Father Joe's Villages and serves lunch to homeless
- Oct. 29-30, Bishop presides over general assembly of diocesan synod on the family



- Feb. 1, Bishop names Maria Olivia Galván as diocese's first woman chancellor
- June 23, Bishop joins rally for detained immigrants at Otay Mesa Detention Center
- Aug. 22, St. Katharine Drexel Academy, a merger of two parish schools, opens
- Nov. 17, Bishop celebrates Mass at inaugural Imperial Valley Catholic Conference



- June 9, Father John Dolan consecrated as Bishop McElroy's auxiliary bishop
- July 14, Bishop McElroy gives Catholic Charities a new home in Pastoral Center
- July 17, Reorganized Office for Family Life and Spirituality officially opens



- Jan. 19, Bishop McElroy celebrates first annual Mass in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- May 31, Bishop celebrates Pentecost Mass for virtual congregation attending via Zoom
- June 6, Bishop prays with African-American Catholic leaders in the wake George Floyd's murder
- July 14, Father Ramón Bejarano consecrated auxiliary bishop to assist Bishop McElroy



- Jan. 10, Bishop presides at prayer service inaugurating Mission San Diego de Alcalá's 250th anniversary
- Oct. 6-27, Bishop attends Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon region at pope's invitation
- Oct. 16, Bishop elected president of California Catholic Conference



- Feb. 15, Bishop McElroy receives second dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- April 15, Bishop responds to anti-Asian bigotry and violence with Special Mass for Racial Healing
- Sept. 12, Seven-week Eucharist initiative begins in diocese

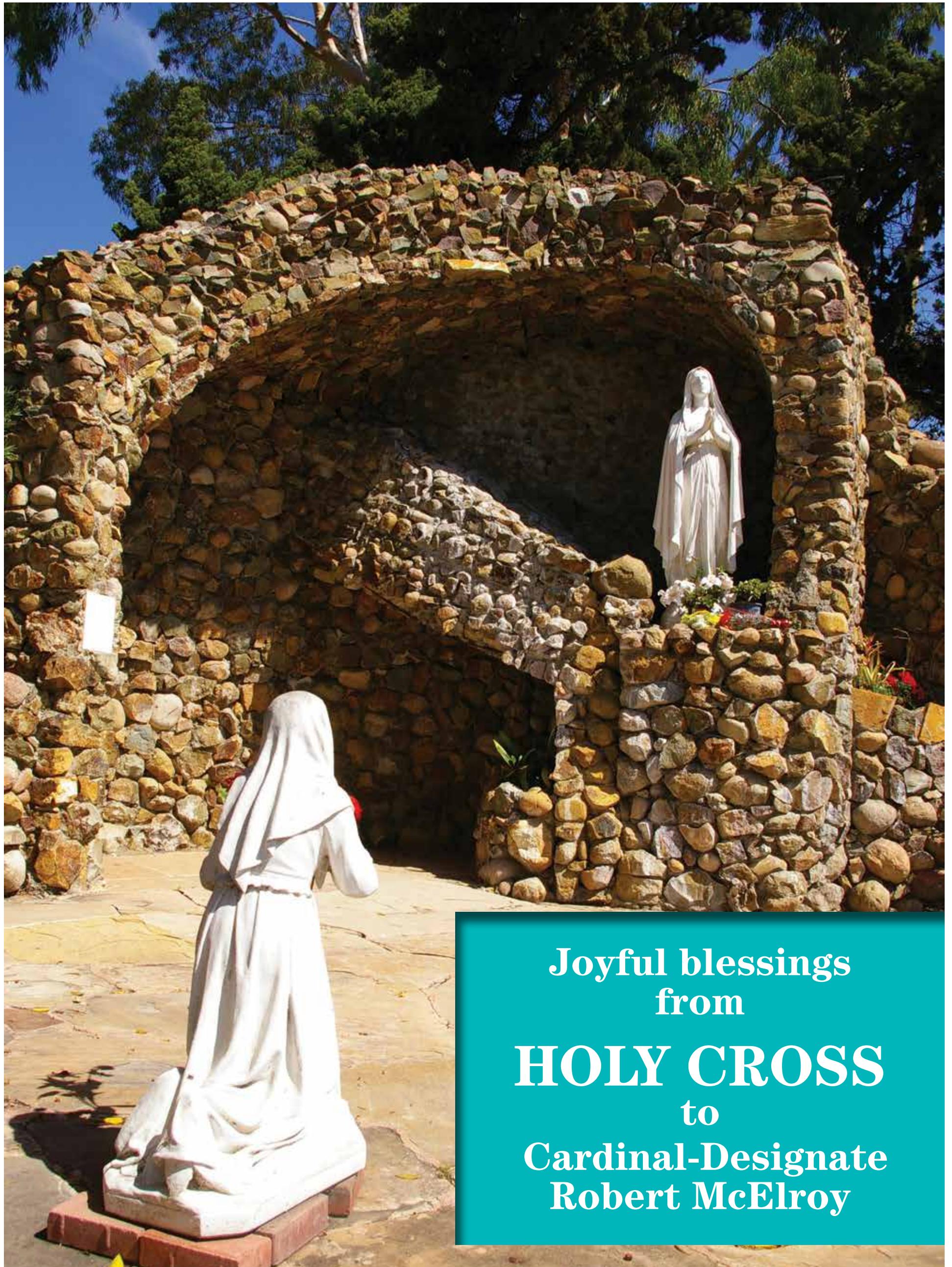


- March 6, Bishop McElroy visits and preaches at local Ukrainian parish to show solidarity
- April 28, bishop speaks at Catholic Criminal Justice Reform Network's Inaugural Conference in Washington, D.C.
- May 17, Bishop presides over funeral Mass for Bishop Emeritus Robert Brom

Aug. 27, 2022

Bishop McElroy will be elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Francis during a consistory at the Vatican.





Joyful blessings
from
HOLY CROSS
to
Cardinal-Designate
Robert McElroy



Santa Clara University Congratulates Cardinal Robert McElroy

We are grateful for your leadership in nurturing pastoral ministers in the Diocese of San Diego and supporting their growth in leadership and ministry. As an alumnus of Santa Clara University, thank you for all you do to advance this important mission.



www.scu.edu/pm



Praising God for the gift of the holy priesthood.
Congratulations, Cardinal McElroy. May our Lord
continue to bless you abundantly in your service
to the Church and His people.



STEPHEN J. GREENE, JR.

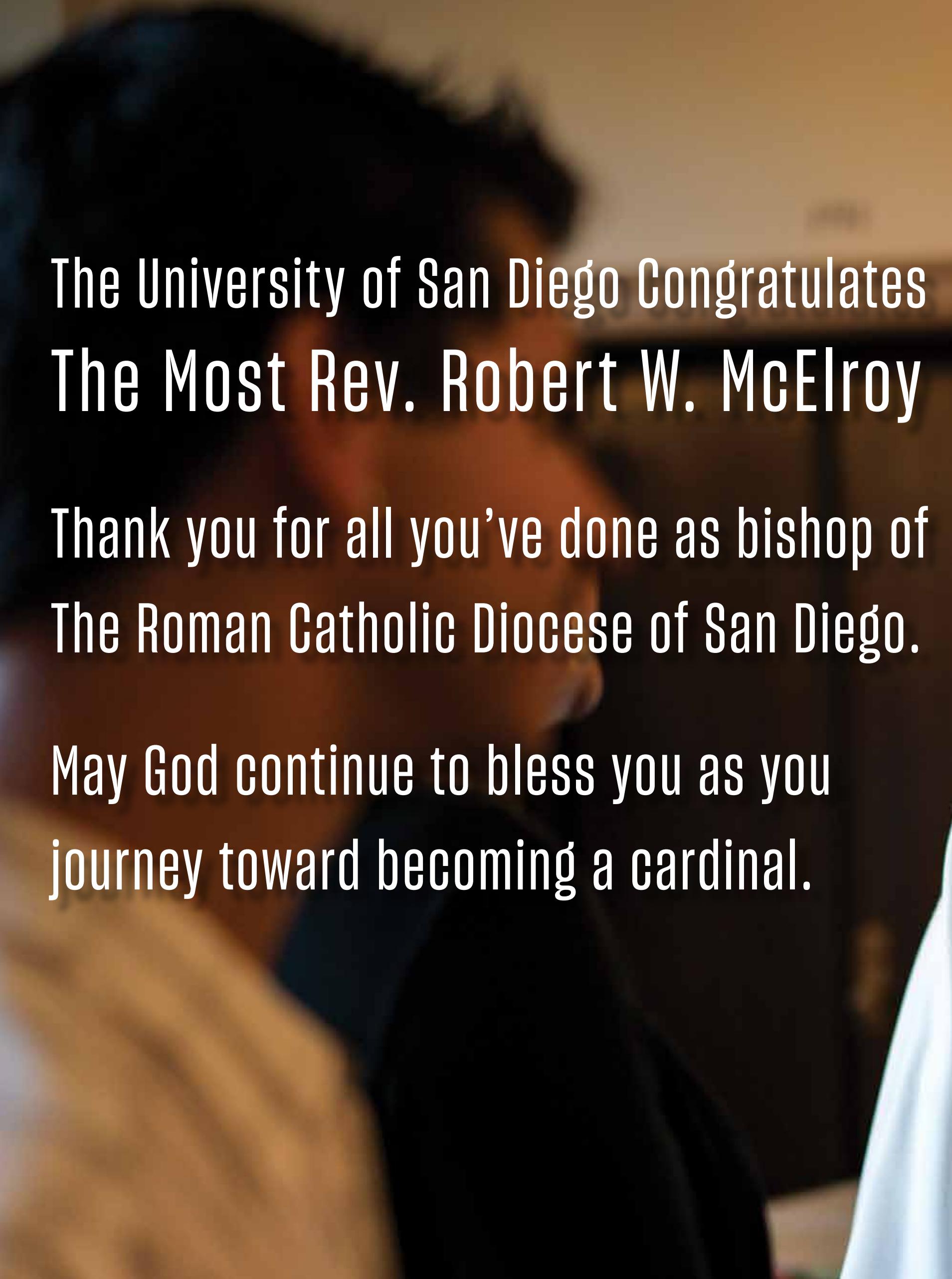


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The University of San Diego Congratulates
The Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy

Thank you for all you've done as bishop of
The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego.

May God continue to bless you as you
journey toward becoming a cardinal.





California State Council Knights of Columbus

"Siempre Adelante, Nunca Atras!"



The California State Council and our nearly 80,000 Brother Knights extend a heartfelt congratulations to Cardinal-designate Robert McElroy. We have had the privilege of working with Cardinal-designate McElroy across our state and are especially proud to see his papal appointment to the College of Cardinals. We look forward to working in solidarity with him and will continue to pray for his ministry. Vivat Jesus!



The image is a composite of two photographs. On the left, there is a graphic overlay containing the logo for Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego, which features a stylized cross inside a shield-like shape. Below the logo, the text "Catholic Charities" is written in a large serif font, with "DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO" in a smaller sans-serif font underneath. A green ribbon banner across the middle of the graphic reads "100 YEARS of Faith in Action". On the right side of the composite image is a photograph of Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy, a man with white hair wearing a black clerical suit, a white clerical collar, and a gold chain with a cross. He is standing in front of a microphone stand.

**Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego congratulates
the Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy on his elevation
to the College of Cardinals.**

**As Bishop of San Diego, Cardinal-designate McElroy's
passion for social justice and equity continues to
strengthen our mission "to feed the hungry, give water to
the thirsty, clothe the naked and welcome the stranger."**

 Catholic
Charities
DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

100 Years of Faith in Action

Congratulations

BISHOP ROBERT W. McELROY

Catholic Mutual Group is proud to honor Bishop McElroy's extraordinary work in service to the Diocese of San Diego and celebrate with him on his elevation to the College of Cardinals.



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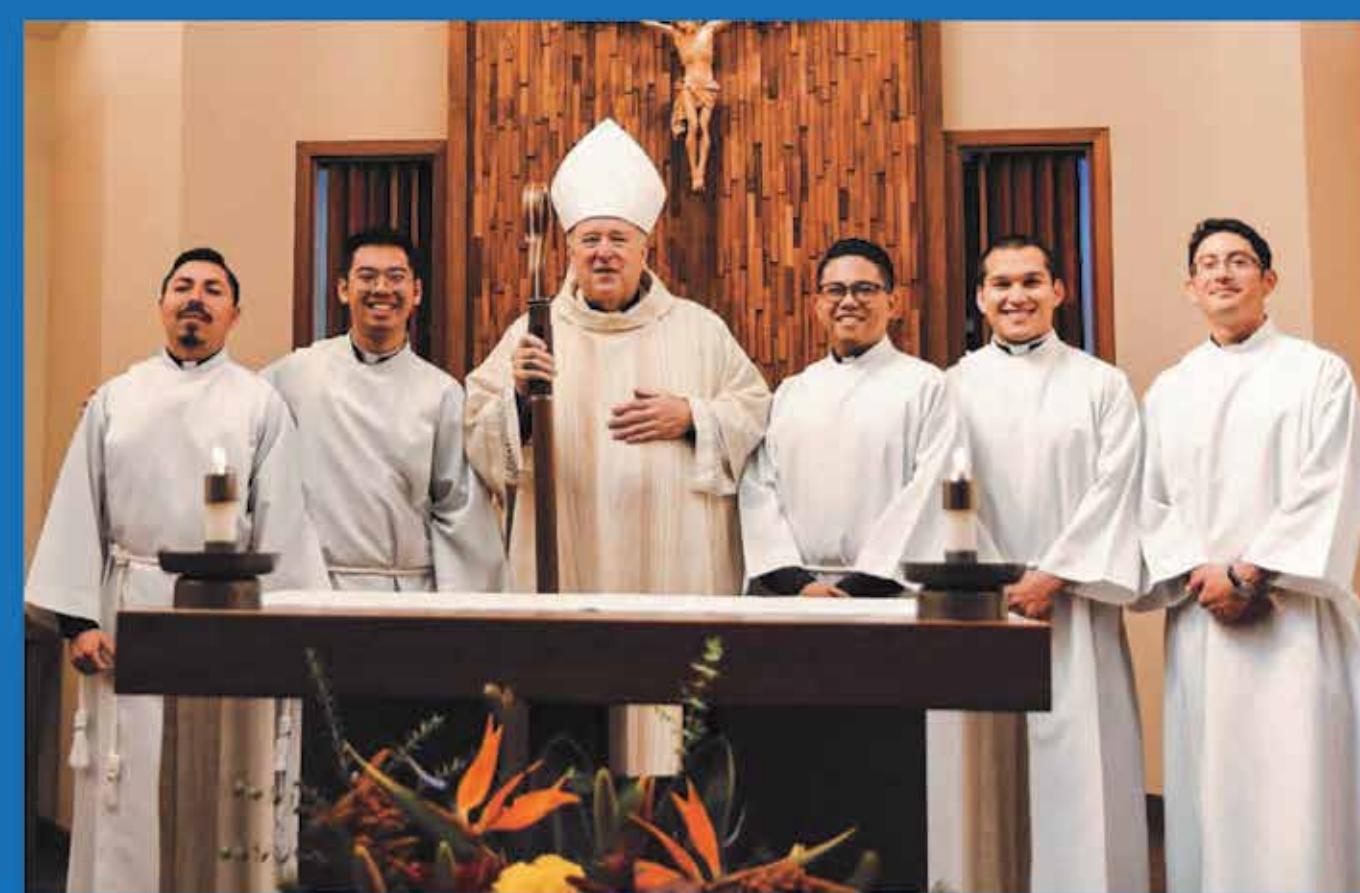
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Congratulations Bishop McElroy

Thank you for your service to us all

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The Candidacy of Seminarians 2019, in their first year enrolled at the Franciscan School of Theology



Franciscan School of Theology
at the UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

The Franciscan School
of Theology
Congratulates
Cardinal-Designate
Robert McElroy

We are blessed by
your leadership
and keep you in
our prayers!



THE ROAD TO CARDINAL

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Father Joe's Villages

With our congratulations and
gratitude to his Eminence

Bishop McElroy

on the occasion of being elevated to Cardinal,
we express our profound thanks for your deep
commitment to serving our neighbors in need.



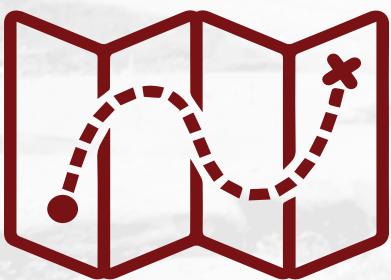


El Camino a Cardenal

Obispo de San Diego Robert McElroy

CORTESIA DE CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC

SUPLEMENTO ESPECIAL PATROCINADO POR CEMENTERIO Y MAUSOLEO HOLY CROSS



Comienza la Jornada

En alguna ocasión el obispo Robert McElroy dijo que “Padre Bob” era el título que más le había gustado en lo que va de su carrera religiosa. Próximamente tendrá un nuevo título, tan alejado de “Padre Bob” como es posible en la Iglesia Católica: “Cardenal”. El 27 de agosto será elevado a ese rango por el Papa Francisco, integrándose así de manera oficial al Colegio Cardenalicio.

Este suplemento explora el extraordinario camino hacia Roma del obispo McElroy, deteniéndonos en el camino para resaltar algunos eventos que han dado forma a la Diócesis de San Diego bajo su dirección. Además, explicaremos el papel de cardenal, puesto que nunca antes ha habido uno de esta región. También les diremos cómo pueden ver la gloriosa asamblea del Vaticano en donde el pastor sandiegino será elevado al escenario mundial.

“No Quería Irme”

Cuando se dio a conocer la noticia de que nuestro Obispo sería elevado al Colegio Cardenalicio, muchos asumieron que se iría a una ciudad más grande para servir en una arquidiócesis. Sin embargo, el mismo obispo McElroy anunció que se quedaría en San Diego, siendo nuestra diócesis la única en los E.E.U.U. dirigida por un cardenal.

“Estoy particularmente feliz de permanecer en San Diego”, dijo el 31 de mayo en una rueda de prensa. “Es una ciudad bellísima y no quería irme”.



“Este es un momento en el que la Iglesia te dice ‘¡Bienvenido! Estamos felices de tenerte’.”

— Obispo McElroy
Obispo de San Diego



El Papa Francisco saluda al obispo McElroy el 27 de enero de 2022 en el Vaticano.

“Azorado y Profundamente Sorprendido”

Alrededor de las 3:30 a.m. el pasado 29 de mayo, el obispo McElroy comenzó a recibir textos que lo obligaron a despertarse.

Uno tras otro los textos comenzaban de la misma manera, “¡Felicitaciones!”.

“¿Felicitaciones por qué?, se preguntó.

En pocos minutos habría descubierto la noticia: Al final de su discurso de “Regina Coeli” en la Plaza de San Pedro, el Papa Francisco había anunciado 21 nuevos cardenales, el Obispo entre ellos.

“Oremos por los nuevos cardenales para que, al confirmar su adhesión a Cristo, me ayuden en mi ministerio como obispo de Roma por el bien de todo el santo pueblo de Dios”, dijo el Papa.

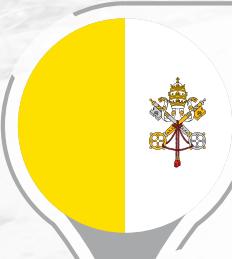
Pocas horas después, el Cardenal Designado emitió un comunicado propio:

“Estoy azorado y profundamente sorprendido con la noticia de que el Papa Francisco me ha nombrado miembro del Colegio Cardenalicio. Pido para que en este ministerio pueda ser de servicio adicional al Dios que me ha agraciado en tantos niveles en mi vida. Rezo también para que pueda asistir al Santo Padre en su renovación pastoral de la Iglesia.

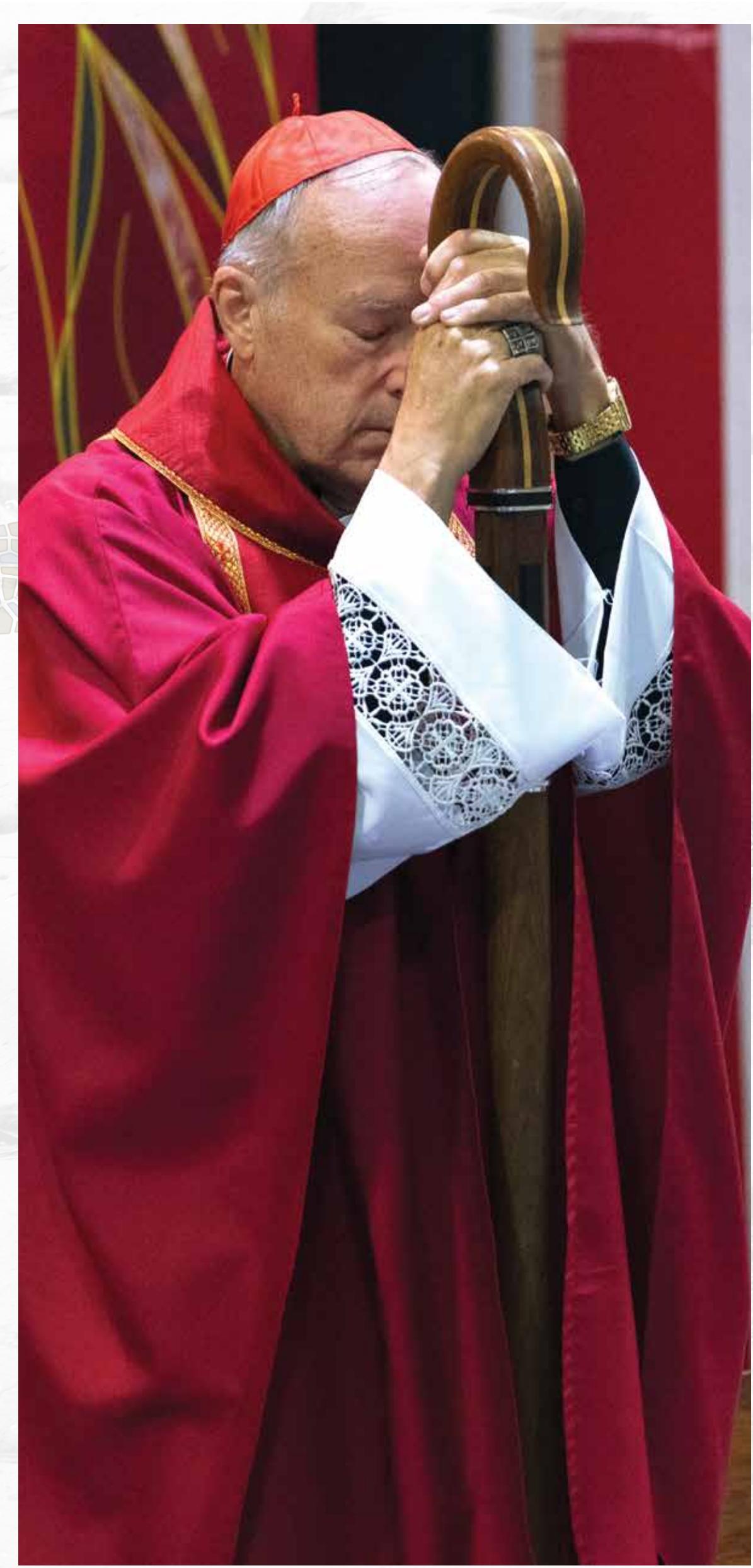
“En estos momentos doy gracias por aquellos que han contribuido profundamente en mi vida y mi sacerdocio: mi familia, sacerdotes y religiosas que ayudaron en mi formación, y a la comunidad Católica de los Condados de San Diego e Imperial, a quienes tengo el privilegio de dirigir”.

Recibiendo el Llamado

Los Números



Obispos de San Diego que han sido elevados a cardenal anteriormente.....	0
Líderes eclesiásticos de Norteamérica que serán elevados a cardenal el 27 de agosto.....	1
Diócesis encabezadas por un cardenal (Diócesis de San Diego).....	1
Obispos entre las 20 personas que serán elevadas a cardenal el 27 de agosto.	5
Cardenales activos de E.E.U.U.; incluyendo el cardenal McElroy	10
Líderes eclesiásticos que serán elevados a cardenal el 27 de agosto.....	20
Cardenales de menos de 80 años calificados para seleccionar al sucesor del Papa Francisco.....	132
Obispos y arzobispos activos en iglesias latinas y orientales en los E.E.U.U.....	188
Obispos en iglesias latinas y orientales en el mundo.....	5,600
Personas que se identifican como Católicos en los Condados de San Diego e Imperial (Diócesis de SD).....	1.2 millones
Personas que se identifican como Católicos en E.E.U.U.	72 millones
Personas que se identifican como Católicos en el mundo.....	1 mil 200 millones



El cardenal designado Robert McElroy en la Misa de Pentecostés para Todos los Pueblos el 4 de junio de 2022 en la escuela secundaria Cathedral Catholic.

Inteligente y Humilde Con Gran Pasión de Servir

El sábado 27 de agosto, frente a miles de personas en la Basílica de San Pedro y millones alrededor del mundo, 20 hombres de cinco continentes escucharán sus nombres leídos en voz alta por el Papa Francisco anunciando al mundo que han sido elevados al Colegio Cardenalicio. Todos fungirán como asesores para Su Santidad. En un futuro 15 de ellos podrán elegir al próximo papa. Entre los cardenales electores se encuentra el obispo de San Diego, Robert McElroy, cabeza de la Diócesis de San Diego.

El obispo McElroy será la primera persona de esta diócesis en ser nombrado Cardenal y será el único miembro votante del Colegio Cardenalicio al oeste de Houston. Como cardenal continuará al frente de la Diócesis de San Diego.

El obispo McElroy, de 68 años de edad, nació en San Francisco. Fue ordenado sacerdote por la Arquidiócesis de San Francisco en 1980 y consagrado como obispo auxiliar por San Francisco en 2010, para posteriormente convertirse en el obispo de San Diego en 2015.

Sus amigos de toda una vida lo describen como un hombre con una inteligencia extraordinaria y una habilidad de comunicación superior, pero humilde y amigable. Sobre todo, hablan de su pasión de servir.

“Todos los que conocimos y trabajamos con (el obispo McElroy) sabíamos que en algún momento se convertiría en cardenal”, aseguró el arzobispo de Santa Fe, John Wester, quien ha conocido al obispo McElroy desde hace más de 40 años. “La única duda era que si tendría que cambiarse de ciudad cuando esto ocurriera. Por suerte para él, se queda en San Diego, una ciudad que ama”.

El arzobispo señaló que el Obispo nunca había sido ambicioso. “Para él siempre se ha tratado de servir y lo que él puede hacer para servir al pueblo de Dios”.

“En su corazón nunca ha dejado de ser pastor”, aseguró. “Es el lente a través del cual él ve el mundo. Es genuinamente sencillo. De todos los obispos que podrían haber recibido ‘un sombrero rojo’, él es probablemente el menos deseoso.

“Creo que el Papa Francisco ve eso y también ve que es brillante”, continuó el Arzobispo. “Fácilmente puedo ver al Papa pensando, ‘Esto es grandioso. Esto es maravilloso. Podemos tener ambas cosas en un mismo paquete’”.

De adolescente el obispo McElroy asistió a St. Joseph High School en Mountain View, el seminario de secundaria de la Arquidiócesis de San Francisco, ahora cerrado. Sin embargo, en lugar de asistir al seminario universitario inmediatamente después, decidió asistir primero a una universidad secular y luego regresar al seminario para seguir con su vocación de sacerdote. El resultado fue una licenciatura en Historia Americana de la universidad de Harvard, maestría en Historia Americana de Stanford, y un doctorado en Ciencias Políticas, también de Stanford.

Al graduarse del Seminario de St. Patrick en Menlo Park, obtuvo una maestría en Divinidad (M.Div). También tiene una licenciatura en Teología de la Escuela Jesuita de Teología y un doctorado en Teología Moral (STD) de la Pontificia Universidad Gregoriana de Roma.

Ned Dolejsi, exdirector ejecutivo de la Conferencia Católica de California, interactuó con el Obispo regularmente mientras la organización abordaba temas complicados.

“Su habilidad para comunicar y explicar temas complejos, al tiempo que consideraba los factores morales, teológicos y políticos involucrados, es un misterio y demuestra lo buen comunicador que es”.

Comienza Nueva Era en la Diócesis de San Diego

El obispo McElroy fue instalado como el sexto obispo de San Diego el 15 de abril de 2015 en la Parroquia de Santa Teresa de Carmel en Carmel Valley. En su homilía el Obispo compartió los elementos clave que iluminarían su liderazgo en la Diócesis de San Diego.

Comenzó con la historia de dos escaladores de El Capitán en Yosemite Valley. Uno de ellos se negó a dejar al otro, quien no podía ascender al tramo final durante 10 días. Al onceavo día el que estaba atorado pudo conquistar el último tramo y juntos alcanzaron su meta. Los siguientes son extractos de la homilía del Obispo.

“La gracia del mutuo acompañamiento, este fue el verdadero milagro que ocurrió en El Capitán. Y es esta gracia de mutuo acompañamiento la que debe formar el corazón de la relación entre un obispo y su Iglesia local.

“El Concilio Vaticano II enseña que la Iglesia está en constante peregrinaje hacia el reino de los cielos, guiada siempre por el Señor. Esta imagen de la Iglesia como pueblo de Dios peregrino exige que el ministerio de un obispo se enmarque en una cultura de mutuo acompañamiento que permea a la Iglesia local.

“El Papa Francisco ha descrito de manera muy conmovedora los elementos del acompañamiento Cristiano: Tiene sus raíces en un sentido de lo sagrado del ‘otro’ y requiere una actitud continua de escucha. El acompañamiento refleja la cercanía y la mirada compasiva de Cristo que sana, libera y anima a crecer en la vida del Evangelio.

“El acompañamiento abraza la prudencia, entendimiento, paciencia y apertura de espíritu. Y sobre todo el mutuo acompañamiento exige una colaboración entre el obispo, los sacerdotes -quienes son sus principales colaboradores-, líderes laicos, aquellos en la vida consa-



La Misa de Pentecostés se ha convertido en la celebración de fe y cultura más grande de la diócesis.

DAVID MAUNG



El Obispo durante la Celebración de Apreciación y Jubileo de Religiosas el 12 de marzo de 2022.

AIDA BUSTOS

Caminando Juntos

“Al comenzar mi ministerio de servicio en esta magnífica Iglesia local de San Diego, oro para que siempre esté moldeado por esta visión de mutuo acompañamiento”.

— Obispo McElroy, Obispo de San Diego



El obispo McElroy junto a los líderes diocesanos Marioly Galván y Rodrigo Valdivia en la conferencia de Encuentro el 17 de octubre de 2017 en la Universidad de San Diego.

grada y la comunidad diaconal, de tal manera que profundice la unidad del pueblo de Dios e incremente la cosecha del Evangelio en la Iglesia Local.

“Al comenzar mi ministerio en esta magnífica Iglesia local de San Diego nos enfrentamos a tres desafíos puestos por las Escrituras y la Iglesia Universal ante nosotros.

“El primero de estos desafíos es el anuncio de la misericordia ilimitada de Dios. La misericordia debe ser el fundamento mismo de la vida de la Iglesia. Toda su actividad pastoral debe estar recogida en la ternura que hace presente a los creyentes.

“Esto no significa olvidarnos de la ley moral de su sustancia y desafío. Significa que la Iglesia está llamada a seguir el modelo pastoral del Señor mismo hacia todos aquellos que encontró en los Evangelios: primero abrazándolos con amorosa misericordia, luego curando sus heridas, y solo después proclamando la ley moral de la reforma.

“El segundo desafío siempre es ser testigos de la gracia de Dios que está presente en la diversidad cultural de la Iglesia. En la diócesis de San Diego están presentes prácticamente todas las nacionalidades y culturas. Esta diversidad constituye un poderoso regalo del Espíritu Santo, palpablemente presente entre nosotros. No puede haber mejor manera de comenzar mi ministerio que fomentando una cultura eclesial que honre por igual la unidad y la diversidad en este Cuerpo de Cristo.

“El tercer desafío de nuestra Iglesia local es buscar la edificación de puentes en nuestro mundo contemporáneo. El mundo que vivimos rompe con los elementos fundamentales del divino plan de Dios, dejándonos quebrantados, alienados y divididos.

“Buscar construir una cultura de acompañamiento mutuo, proclamar la extravagante misericordia de Dios, dar testimonio de la gracia de la diversidad cultural, construir puentes para reflejar la visión de Dios para la familia humana; estos son elementos centrales de la obra que Dios ha puesto ante nosotros. A ojos humanos, estos desafíos pueden parecer incluso más imposibles que escalar El Capitán, pero en nuestra fe somos llamados con la visión de la gracia enraizada en el Evangelio y estamos llamados a caminar juntos como peregrinos, en ocasiones sin saber hacia dónde nos dirigimos, pero con la certeza de que al final es Dios quien nos guía y eso es más que suficiente”.

Sínodo Transforma Ministerio Para las Familias

“Piensen en grande”.

Eso fue lo que el obispo Robert McElroy les pidió a los delegados del sínodo sobre vida familiar en el 2016. La meta era identificar pasos concretos para revitalizar y fortalecer los matrimonios y las familias.

A principios de ese año el Papa Francisco presentó un documento titulado “Amoris Laetitia” (Alegria del Amor). Invitó a obispos y párrocos a analizar la manera en que servían a las familias y encontrar la forma de darles una mejor bienvenida, responder a sus necesidades y ayudarlos a crecer en su fe.

El obispo McElroy convocó a un sínodo para responder a ese llamado, una de las pocas diócesis del país en realizar estas consultas en esos momentos.

El sínodo para familias es la primera de cuatro consultas de fieles que la diócesis ha realizado en los siete años que el obispo McElroy ha estado al mando. Estas consultas han atraído a miles de fieles a conversar entre ellos y con la diócesis sobre la fe. Estas consultas diocesanas realizadas en múltiples idiomas representan una inversión significativa de recursos y tiempo; no son comunes. El último sínodo al que había convocado la diócesis antes del sínodo para familias se realizó hace 40 años.

El proceso que el Obispo utilizó en ese sínodo resultaría emblemático de su liderazgo a medida que la diócesis afrontaba diversos desafíos:

Invitar a un grupo tan diverso como sea posible a participar en la conversación; alentarlos a ser creativos en sus ideas para abordar esas preocupaciones; confiar en ellos mientras realizan su trabajo; y comprometerlos a movernos rápidamente para implementar lo propuesto.

El Obispo se aseguró de que todo el proceso fuera transparente.

Al concluir el sínodo para familias, alrededor de mil fieles habían participado en las sesiones de escucha en prácticamente todas las 98 parroquias de las diócesis. La diócesis comenzó a implementar las 15 recomendaciones desarrolladas por los delegados dentro de los dos meses posteriores a la asamblea final.

Una de ellas era la creación de un nuevo departamento, la Oficina de Vida Familiar y Espiritualidad, encargada de servir a las familias en el mundo de hoy.

La nueva oficina lanzó un programa de preparación matrimonial llamado “Testigos del Amor”, en el que se acompaña a una pareja comprometida aún después de su boda. De igual manera, su personal comenzó a trabajar para apoyar a los Católicos separados y divorciados.



Delegados del sínodo para la familia se reunieron en otoño de 2016 para desarrollar propuestas.

Bienvenidas las Familias de Hoy



Parejas celebran su amor y renuevan sus votos en la Misa de aniversario el 12 de febrero en la Iglesia La Inmaculada en la Universidad de San Diego.



La diócesis celebró una Misa para los Católicos LGBT y sus familias en San Juan Evangelista el 6 de octubre de 2017.

Nueva Oficina Ofrece Nuevos Caminos de Sanación

Para comenzar a atender las heridas que sufren las familias modernas, la oficina desarrolló una serie de talleres en inglés y español llamados “Vías de Sanación”. Abordaron temas como drogadicción y alcoholismo, salud mental y perdida reproductiva. También incluían sesiones sobre cómo mejorar la comunicación familiar, habilidades de los padres y uso de internet.

Los participantes del sínodo identificaron grupos hambrientos de apoyo pastoral. Estos incluían parejas recién casadas y parejas que han estado casados por algún tiempo. La nueva oficina desarrollo programas y recursos para ellos, y alentaron a las parroquias a hacer lo mismo.

Los homosexuales y sus familiares constituían otro grupo cuyos miembros habían expresado en las sesiones de escucha que se sentían marginados en la Iglesia. La nueva oficina comenzó a apoyar a las parroquias que querían lanzar o fortalecer ministerios para acompañar a esta comunidad.

El padre paulista John Hurley, líder nacional en estrategias de evangelización, coordinó el sínodo familiar. Hurley dijo que “había sido una gran alegría ver y escuchar al Obispo” en diálogo con todos los participantes.

“Su capacidad de abrir su corazón y escuchar a cualquiera es la marca de un verdadero pastor”, comentó. “Él los escuchó hasta que sintieron que existían!”.



DAVID MAUNG

Una diversidad de adultos jóvenes compartieron sus experiencias y sueños para la Iglesia durante una asamblea general el 27 de octubre de 2019 en el Centro Pastoral.

Adultos Jóvenes

Encontrando el "Momento Hispano" de Nuestra Iglesia

En enero de 2017 comenzó una consulta a nivel nacional para discernir maneras en las que la Iglesia Católica podría responder mejor a la creciente presencia hispana. Los latinos constituyen el 39 por ciento de los adultos Católicos en EE.UU. y como el 60 por ciento de nuestra diócesis.

Cuatro años después, al término del Quinto Encuentro Nacional del Ministerio Hispano alrededor de 142 mil latinos habían participado en el país; 1,360 de ellos de la Diócesis de San Diego. Se habían reunido en "encuentros" a nivel parroquial, diocesano, regional y nacional, acompañados por el obispo McElroy.

Las propuestas de esas reuniones se utilizaron para desarrollar un plan pastoral en todos los niveles de la Iglesia. Dicho plan se centra en cinco áreas: desarrollo de liderazgo, justicia social, pastoral juvenil, familias, y catequesis y formación. La pandemia detuvo un tanto la implementación, pero este trabajo ya ha comenzado de nuevo.

En la diócesis los feligreses hispanos formaron una Comunidad de Solidaridad el año pasado, en colaboración con *Catholic Relief Services* (Servicios de Ayuda Católica), para influir en las decisiones legislativas que afectan a los más vulnerables. Más recientemente la diócesis se comprometió en llevar la Serie de Ministerios del Quinto Encuentro a parroquias locales para capacitaciones en inglés y español en las cinco áreas de enfoque.

"Estamos todos reunidos aquí para preguntar cómo es que nuestra Iglesia debe crecer y cambiar para acompañar la enorme gracia de este momento hispano dentro de la Iglesia en los EE.UU.", dijo el obispo McElroy durante el Encuentro diocesano el 17 de octubre de 2017. "Caminemos juntos hoy, con paciencia y confianza, así como Dios acompañó a sus discípulos en el camino a Emaús".

Quinto Encuentro



AIDA BUSTOS

Diócesis Convocó a Sínodo para Dar la Bienvenida a Jóvenes Adultos

En otoño de 2019 el obispo Robert McElroy convocó a un sínodo que invitaba a los jóvenes adultos de cada parroquia a "soñar en grande" sobre cómo crear una Iglesia que atraiga a su generación y los ayude a crecer en su fe.

El sínodo, titulado "¡Cristo Vive! Tiempo de Sueños y Decisiones", se basó en la consulta convocada por la diócesis en 2016 que resultó en la transformación de la forma en que la Iglesia local acoge y sirve a las familias de hoy.

Ambos síndicos fueron inspirados por el Papa Francisco, quien instó a los obispos del mundo a actualizar sus ministerios para servir a las familias y jóvenes adultos en dos documentos distintos. En "Christus Vivit" (Cristo Vive), publicado en marzo de 2019, el Papa reflexionó sobre los desafíos que enfrentan las personas jóvenes hoy y los alentó a ser voces vibrantes dentro de la Iglesia.

Al igual que en el sínodo familiar, el Obispo buscó una variedad de voces de jóvenes adultos, entre los 18 y 39 años, que estuvieran activos en la Iglesia y también aquellos que se consideraban no afiliados. Los participantes representaban una gran variedad de contextos sociales, económicos y culturales, incluyendo militares, "Dreamers" y LGBTQ, entre otros.

Más de 230 jóvenes adultos se reunieron en siete reuniones grupales de decanato, compartieron sus experiencias en la Iglesia y propusieron maneras en las que la diócesis y las parroquias podían apoyarlos y alimentar su vida espiritual. A finales de octubre alrededor de 130 de ellos se reunieron en una asamblea general para desarrollar las ideas que surgieron en esas reuniones y formular recomendaciones, que el Obispo se había comprometido a implementar.



DAVID MAUNG

Jóvenes Adultos Servirán en Roles Diocesanos y de Liderazgo Parroquial

Entre las propuestas se pidió que los grupos de las parroquias, o decanatos, se acomodaran mejor a las necesidades de los adultos jóvenes al programar Misa y tiempos de confesión en las noches de lunes a viernes. También se pidió que cada parroquia agregará una partida a su presupuesto para el ministerio de adultos jóvenes.

El obispo McElroy también emitió algunas recomendaciones propias: que para finales de 2022 los jóvenes adultos ocuparían el 25 por ciento de los roles litúrgicos y de liderazgo en cada una de las 98 parroquias de la diócesis; que asignaría el mismo porcentaje de jóvenes adultos a las juntas y comisiones a nivel diocesano.

Un comité de implementación había comenzado a trabajar cuando inició la pandemia de Covid-19 a principios de 2020. Entre las órdenes de permanecer en casa y las cuarentenas, el grupo suspendió su planeación.

A principios de este año reanudaron sus labores. Cada uno de los siete decanatos ha convocado a un equipo de liderazgo de adultos jóvenes para compartir programas y eventos en cada región, una de las primeras recomendaciones.

"Las prioridades establecidas por el Sínodo de Jóvenes Adultos permanecen a la vanguardia a medida que salimos de la pandemia, la cual detuvo gran parte del progreso que estaba en marcha", dijo la canciller diocesana Marioly Galván.



DAVID MAUNG

El obispo McElroy reunió a todos los empleados de la Diócesis de San Diego el 13 de agosto de 2019, primera reunión de su tipo, para hacer un llamado en contra del abuso sexual.

Extraordinaria Respuesta al Abuso de Menores

“El monstruoso crimen de abuso sexual a niños y jóvenes”, como lo llama el Papa, es sin duda alguna el tema más doloroso al que la Iglesia Católica se enfrenta el día de hoy.

El obispo Robert McElroy ha respondido a este tema de una manera extraordinaria.

En el verano de 2018, un gran jurado en Pensilvania publicó un informe que detalla décadas de abuso infantil por parte del clero en ese estado. El reporte, junto con otras revelaciones de abuso involucrando a altos rangos de la Iglesia, reavivó la furia de escándalos pasados.

En respuesta a esto, el Obispo se dio a la tarea de reunirse de manera personal con fieles en las parroquias de los condados de San Diego e Imperial. La diócesis realizó ocho sesiones en donde miembros de la comunidad podían hacerle preguntas al Obispo y él escucharía sus preocupaciones. Los participantes expresaron decepción, tristeza y en momentos coraje.

“Estamos viviendo un momento desgarrador en la vida de la Iglesia”, dijo el Obispo a los participantes durante la primera reunión, la cual tuvo lugar en la Parroquia de Nuestra Madre de Confianza el 1 de octubre.

En estas reuniones reconoció los fracasos pasados de la jerarquía de la Iglesia para proteger a los niños, y explicó lo que la diócesis había estado haciendo durante 20 años para proteger a los niños en las escuelas y parroquias. El Obispo les aseguró que no había habido

Protegiendo a Nuestros Niños

ninguna acusación creíble de tal abuso en la Diócesis de San Diego desde que él llegó en 2015, cosa que sigue siendo cierta al día de hoy.

El siguiente mes de mayo, el Papa Francisco exigió una respuesta de toda la Iglesia para erradicar el flagelo del abuso sexual.

El obispo McElroy respondió de una manera nunca antes vista en la historia de la diócesis. El 13 de agosto de 2019 reunió a todo el personal de la diócesis en un mismo lugar, más de 2,500 personas. Hizo esto para crear conciencia del impacto devastador del abuso a menores y para hacer un llamado a cada uno de los miembros del personal a denunciar abuso en donde quiera que sospechen que podría estar ocurriendo, no solo aquellos que están obligados a hacerlo.

De igual manera, anunció dos medidas que la diócesis estaría tomando para ayudar a las víctimas a sanar.

Comentó que la diócesis haría una inversión significativa para participar en un Programa de Compensación Independiente, dando a las víctimas la oportunidad de presentar su reclamo. Un equipo de abogados respetados a nivel nacional evaluaría los reclamos de manera justa, rápida y totalmente independiente de la diócesis. El programa estaría abierto a cualquier persona, independientemente de cuándo haya ocurrido el abuso o el estado migratorio.

Al mes siguiente la diócesis había lanzado el programa. (Dos años después, al término de este, la diócesis había pagado 7 millones 655 mil dólares a 59 personas que aceptaron ofertas para liquidar sus reclamos). El Obispo también anunció que había ampliado el alcance del Coordinador de Asistencia a las Víctimas de la diócesis. Este miembro del personal no solo recibiría los informes de posibles abusos, sino que también ayudaría a formar grupos de sanación para los sobrevivientes y sus familias y desarrollaría programas educativos para las parroquias.

“No podemos borrar el horror de esta historia, tampoco podemos restaurar las almas, corazones y vidas destrozadas de aquellos que han sido víctimas”, dijo. “Pero podemos seguir adelante, como nos llama el Papa Francisco, totalmente decididos a expulsar el abuso sexual de menores de la vida interna de la Iglesia, e igualmente resueltos a ayudar a transformar las familias y la sociedad para purgar la epidemia de abuso sexual que nos azota”.



DAVID MAUNG

El Obispo fue encargado de exponer en la primera de ocho sesiones sobre el tema de abuso sexual el 1 de octubre de 2018 en la Iglesia Nuestra Madre de Confianza.

Responde Diócesis a Crisis Ambiental

“Le pido a cada comunidad parroquial y a cada creyente que escuche el llamado a salvar la tierra como si fuera Dios hablándonos directamente en lo más profundo de nuestra alma”.

De esa manera fue como el obispo McElroy introdujo el Plan de Acción de Cuidado de la Creación de la diócesis, un amplio plan publicado el otoño pasado que llama a las familias, parroquias y escuelas de la región a tomar medidas para cuidar la creación.

Este es uno de los proyectos del Ministerio del Cuidado de la Creación lanzado por el Obispo hace cuatro años en respuesta a la monumental encíclica del Papa Francisco titulada “Laudato Si’ Cuidado de Nuestro Hogar Común”. El Papa solicitó a todas las personas del mundo a trabajar juntos para revertir la degradación ambiental, la cual afecta en mayor medida a los más pobres del mundo.

En su proyecto más significativo, la diócesis asiste a parroquias y escuelas a instalar sistemas de energía solar para reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. Más de la mitad de sus 97 parroquias ya lo han hecho, una inversión de casi 30 millones de dólares hasta ahora.

Paz Artaza-Regan, del Pacto Climático Católico en Washington, D.C., dijo que la Diócesis de San Diego se ha convertido en “un líder en el cuidado de la creación” y, para muchos, es “el ejemplo de lo que su diócesis podría hacer”.

“Estamos agradecidos por el liderazgo personal (del cardenal McElroy) y por haber conducido a su diócesis al camino de la sostenibilidad”, afirmó. “Creo que su compromiso a vivir y enseñar ‘Laudato Si’ es una de las razones por las que el Santo Padre lo eligió para elevarlo al Colegio de Cardenales”.

Ministerio Promueve Estudio y Acción



Miembros del Ministerio del Cuidado de la Creación con el padre Emmet Farrell.

Hasta hace unas pocas semanas el Ministerio de Cuidado de la Creación era un esfuerzo de voluntarios encabezado por un sacerdote retirado, el padre Emmet Farrell.

Los voluntarios se han dedicado los últimos años a educar a las comunidades de sus parroquias sobre la administración ambiental, alentándolos a comenzar sus propios equipos de Cuidado de la Creación.

“Estamos tratando de enfatizar dos cosas: estudio y acción”, dijo el padre Farrell. “Tal vez hemos puesto más atención al estudio y menos a la acción”.

El equipo pide a las parroquias y escuelas desarrollar proyectos que tengan sentido para ellos mismos. Algunas parroquias han realizado cambios que benefician al medio ambiente en sus jardines, mientras que otras han sustituido los vasos de plástico o de poliestireno por alternativas biodegradables.

Varias escuelas han plantado jardines sostenibles que no solo sirven como un gran laboratorio de aprendizaje para los estudiantes, sino que además proporcionan fruta y verdura a los necesitados.

Recientemente el equipo ha estado trabajando con parroquias, escuelas y familias para plantar árboles sostenibles, especialmente en las áreas más pobres y con escasa vegetación.

“Es muy espiritual. Es la administración de lo que Dios te ha dado y lo estamos contaminando y desperdimando, y eso es pecado”, Dijo el padre Farrell.

Como parte de la Oficina de Vida, Paz y Justicia, el Ministerio del Cuidado de la Creación tiene un director pagado. Son muy pocas las diócesis que tienen personal de tiempo completo para dirigir este trabajo.

Educando e Inspirando a la Acción



El obispo Robert McElroy con Veerabhadran Ramanathan.

El obispo McElroy es una voz importante cuando se habla de la necesidad urgente de cambiar la cultura actual para enfrentar no solo el cambio climático sino la salud de la sociedad misma.

Fue el orador principal en la conferencia, “Laudato Si’ y la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos”, celebrada en la Universidad de Creighton en junio de 2019. El evento reunió

a líderes en la fe y líderes ambientales para encontrar maneras de integrar “Laudato Si” más profundamente en la Iglesia.

El Obispo también expuso en un foro titulado “Una Nueva Alianza Entre la Ciencia, la Religión y la Política”, organizado por la Diócesis de San Diego. Líderes Católicos laicos, educadores, sacerdotes y religiosas asistieron a dicho evento en octubre de 2019.

El Obispo y el reconocido científico climatológico Veerabhadran Ramanathan, quien también dio una plática, señalaron que contamos con unos 10 años para poder cambiar el curso antes de que el cambio climático alcance un nivel de



Los feligreses de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe plantaron un árbol en el hogar de la familia Camargo en Barrio Logan el 19 de marzo de 2022.

AIDA BUSTOS

Al Cuidado de la Creación



El obispo McElroy celebró la Misa de la Semana de la Tierra en la Iglesia de St. Charles el 17 de abril de 2021.

JOHN GASTALDO

crisis. Ambos dijeron que la ciencia y la fe tienen que trabajar de la mano para evitar más catástrofes.

Extracto del discurso del obispo McElroy “Laudato Si’ y la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos”:

“En este momento peligroso de nuestra historia, los temas centrales de ‘Laudato Si’ son especialmente urgentes para nosotros en los EE. UU. Estamos profundamente distanciados el uno del otro, hirviendo en divisiones y no dispuestos a reconciliarnos. Somos la nación más poderosa en la historia del planeta y sin embargo, hemos rechazado los únicos caminos reales que han surgido para sanar a nuestro planeta. Cuando los europeos llegaron al Nuevo Mundo fueron atraídos por una visión del Nuevo Paraíso en el que la belleza cruda de la creación original estaba intacta. Ahora el mundo nos llama en agonía y nosotros permanecemos ciegos al daño que le estamos causando año con año. ‘Laudato Si’ es un llamado a renovar los lazos de solidaridad que han estado en el centro de cada avance que hemos hecho como pueblo”.

Obispo Defiende la Vida en Todo Momento

En cada oportunidad que se le presenta el obispo Robert McElroy defiende la santidad de la vida, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural.

Llueve, truene o relampaguee, el Obispo ha encabezado cada una de las Caminatas por la Vida en San Diego desde que llegó a esta diócesis en 2015.

Antes del Covid-19 la asistencia a este evento incrementaba año con año, reuniendo a varios miles de personas, incluyendo bastante participación de jóvenes.

En lugar de cancelar el evento debido a la pandemia, el Obispo pidió que este testimonio público continuará en 2021 pero ahora en forma de caravana.

“Aquellos que dicen que la vida en el vientre no es vida humana están apoyando una mentira”, dijo el obispo McElroy durante la Caminata por la Vida de 2018. “Estamos aquí porque queremos apoyar la verdad de la gracia de Dios en el vientre”.

Como presidente de la Conferencia Católica de California, el obispo McElroy promueve la Iniciativa de Atención Integral de la Persona. Desarrollada en conjunto con los sistemas Católicos de atención médica del estado, la iniciativa tiene como objetivo crear un entorno en el que los enfermos y los moribundos se sientan amados, dignos y atendidos.

Este proyecto requiere que las parroquias reciban información sobre la enseñanza Católica del final de la vida y cómo apoyar mejor a los miembros que se enfrentan una enfermedad crónica o tienen un diagnóstico terminal, así como a sus familias.

Protegiendo la Vida

“Mientras celebramos la revocación de Roe v. Wade, de muchas maneras, nuestro trabajo apenas comienza.”

— Obispo McElroy, Obispo de San Diego



Participantes de la Caminata por la Vida celebran el poder reunirse de nuevo el 15 de enero de 2022.



Fieles de El Centro se unieron en oración por el fin del aborto el 23 de febrero de 2020.



El obispo McElroy encabezó una caravana que promovía la vida el 30 de enero de 2021.

“Tenemos que Redoblar Nuestros Esfuerzos”

El 15 de enero de 2022, el obispo McElroy encabezó la Caminata por la Vida que se realiza de manera anual en San Diego. A pesar de que la corte suprema de EE.UU. aún no había revocado *Roe v. Wade*, predijo que sucedería y llamó a los fieles a redoblar sus esfuerzos para proteger a los no nacidos:

“Este es un gran momento de esperanza, y es momento de dar gracias a Dios y a todas aquellos que han trabajado estos últimos cincuenta años para lograrlo.

“Estaba en la universidad cuando la Corte Suprema emitió por primera vez su decisión en *Roe v. Wade*. Recuerdo que me entristeció tremadamente y me pregunté si alguna vez veríamos el día en que los derechos de los no nacidos fueran afirmados de nuevo.

“En California (dónde no habrá cambios), este es un momento para redoblar nuestros esfuerzos.

“Tenemos que convencer a las personas de este estado — y considero que tenemos la capacidad de hacerlo con el tiempo — que el bebé no nacido es precioso y que, como sabemos, Dios es el único autor de toda vida, y nosotros simplemente somos sus administradores en esta tierra.

“Tenemos que continuar educando y convirtiendo las mentes y los corazones para señalar al niño no nacido y ayudar a otros a ver la belleza de esa vida.

“En un ultrasonido los padres ven a su hijo y reconocen que es vida humana. Tenemos que lograr que otros vean eso y las implicaciones que esto conlleva en términos de cómo la ley protege a los no nacidos”.



FOTOS CORTESIA DE CARIDADES CATÓLICAS

Caridades Católicas se asoció con las parroquias, quienes proporcionaron voluntarios para empacar y distribuir bolsas de alimentos.

Respuesta Compasiva y Creativa a la Emergencia

El director de Caridades Católicas tiene una forma sencilla de explicar por qué la agencia ayuda a los más vulnerables, a quienes describe como “nuestros vecinos”.

“Es lo que hacemos”, dijo Pajanor. “Está en nuestro ADN”.

Durante un siglo Caridades Católicas ha puesto la fe en acción.

En los últimos dos años la agencia ha intensificado su trabajo para atender las necesidades básicas de los habitantes de la región en dos frentes, alimentación y vivienda. Lo han hecho forjando o fortaleciendo relaciones con parroquias y otras organizaciones, así como buscando nuevas subvenciones y fondos públicos.

La agencia había planeado inicialmente que la Red de Distribución de Alimentos de Emergencia durara un mes, hasta que la crisis de salud se calmara y las personas pudieran reanudar sus vidas, pero las condiciones sobre el terreno cambiaron rápidamente y la agencia tuvo que adaptarse para seguir proporcionando alimentos de emergencia por tiempo indefinido.

Por ejemplo, la agencia se asoció con la ciudad de National City para expandir la distribución gratuita de alimentos a las familias de bajos ingresos afectadas por el virus, con la parroquia de San Antonio de Padua sirviendo como punto de distribución.

La comida provino del Banco de Alimentos de San Diego o Feeding San Diego, que entregó los productos en tarimas a la escuela secundaria Cathedral Catholic. Una vez por semana llegaban equipos de las parroquias a recoger sus alimentos.

Cuando la agencia se enteró de que las familias deseaban tener productos frescos de vez en cuando, respondió haciendo un trato con los supermercados para rescatar los productos frescos y congelados que no se vendían y así distribuirlos a familias.



Los confinados en casa recibieron comidas de miembros del personal y voluntarios de la agencia.

Agencia Intensifica Labor en Pandemia

El 12 de marzo de 2020, la pandemia comenzaba a cobrar fuerza en la región de San Diego.

“¿Qué podemos hacer?” le preguntó el obispo Robert McElroy al director ejecutivo de Caridades Católicas, “Vino” Pajanor.

La agencia se movilizó, aprovechando los contactos que su personal ya había desarrollado en las parroquias y el 6 de abril lanzó la Red de Distribución de Alimentos de Emergencia, tan solo 18 días después de que el gobernador Gavin Newsom ordenara que todos, a excepción de los trabajadores esenciales, permanecieran en casa para controlar el virus.

Inicialmente, la red se componía de 21 parroquias en los condados de San Diego e Imperial que distribuían alimentos a miembros de sus parroquias de bajos recursos e individuos confinados en casa.

Los voluntarios entregaban paquetes de alimentos no perecederos a personas que pasaban por ellos en sus vehículos. También los llevaban hasta la puerta de quienes no podían salir de su hogar.

En la primera semana las parroquias atendieron a 2,500 hogares. La semana siguiente a unos 5,000, ese número aumentó a 10,000 en la cuarta semana.



La agencia se apresuró para entregar alimentos frescos durante la pandemia.

Poniendo Nuestra Fe en Acción

“Justicia, compasión y alcance son una dimensión del Evangelio de Jesucristo y el significado de ser Católico”.

— Obispo McElroy, Obispo de San Diego

Listo Refugio Para Indigentes

El número de indigentes se ha disparado en los últimos años, siendo las mujeres y las familias quienes constituyen una mayor parte de ellos.

Caridades Católicas está a punto de abrir un refugio de día para hombres y mujeres sin hogar en El Centro. Será el primero de su tipo en el condado de Imperial; brindará servicios básicos e integrales para hombres y mujeres, aunque no alojamiento.

El edificio prefabricado de 4,997 pies cuadrados tendrá cocina, comedor, duchas, baños, lavandería, congelador, refrigerador, áreas de almacenamiento, sala de reuniones y camas para 400 personas.

El centro de \$2.5 millones fue construido con fondos del Programa Estatal de Asistencia de Emergencia Para Indigentes. Los problemas de la cadena de suministro han retrasado su apertura durante casi un año, pero el director de la agencia espera que pueda abrirse para fines del verano.

El Obispo participó en la inauguración del edificio el pasado agosto.

“Todos los que trabajan juntos en estas diferentes agencias son colaboradores para llevar a cabo el trabajo y desarrollar la noción de que todos somos una familia, y que la solidaridad en nuestra sociedad es muy importante, particularmente en tiempos difíciles”, dijo.



El obispo Robert McElroy se reunió con representantes de varias agencias en la inauguración de un refugio de día para personas sin hogar en El Centro el 30 de agosto de 2021.



El obispo McElroy participó en una manifestación para inmigrantes detenidos en el Centro de Detención de Otay Mesa el 23 de junio de 2018.

"Nuestra Fe Nos Invita a Acoger al Extranjero"

“Vino” Pajnor, director ejecutivo de Caridades Católicas, dijo que bajo el liderazgo del obispo Robert McElroy la organización ha estado trabajando arduamente para recibir a miles de inmigrantes y refugiados.

La organización ha encabezado este esfuerzo a lo largo de la frontera entre California y México, recibiendo a inmigrantes, principalmente mujeres y niños en pobreza, que buscan asilo en los Estados Unidos. Su personal ayuda a estas personas, quienes están legalmente en el país, a llegar a su destino final.

El personal también se dio a la tarea de recibir a los refugiados de Afganistán después de que su gobierno colapsara.

Impresionados por la calidad, agilidad y enfoque de este servicio, los funcionarios del servicio social del estado han ampliado el contrato con Caridades Católicas. Recientemente, la seleccionaron para supervisar el reasentamiento de refugiados afganos en todo el sur de California.



En abril de 2021, una familia llegó a un centro de refugio en El Centro operado por Caridades Católicas para brindar asistencia a migrantes.

Acogiendo al Extranjero

El Obispo Pide Luchar por Una Reforma Migratoria

La Conferencia Católica de Obispos de los EE.UU. aboga por que el Congreso apruebe la reforma migratoria. El obispo McElroy transmite ese mensaje en toda la región de San Diego y sus alrededores. El 28 de junio de 2021, el Obispo se unió a una vigilia de oración interreligiosa frente a la corte federal en el centro de San Diego, para pedir a las personas de fe que presionen a sus congresistas a reformar el sistema migratorio.

Afirmó que muchas veces el Congreso parece listo para actuar y ofrecer un camino para legalizar a por lo menos una parte de los 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados, solo para echarse para atrás en el último minuto.

“Ya no podemos quedarnos de brazos cruzados mientras vemos cómo nuestros procesos políticos destruyen los sueños y esperanzas de los refugiados e inmigrantes que no solo han venido a vivir aquí, sino que además han ayudado a construir nuestra nación y mejorarlala”, dijo en sus declaraciones el Obispo.

“Tenemos que alzar la voz y exigir acción, para dar la bienvenida al extranjero que llega a nuestra frontera, especialmente a refugiados y quienes buscan asilo”, comentó. “Pero también para aquellos que han formado parte de nuestra sociedad durante una, dos o tres décadas”.

El Obispo señaló que la experiencia de huir de la injusticia y la represión y tener que mudarte a otro lugar es parte central de la fe Cristiana, Judía y Musulmana.

“A menudo la gente dice, ‘bueno, yo creo en la fe, pero eso no es primordial para mí; es un tema secundario’”, dijo. “Pero en nuestras experiencias, como pueblos de fe, la experiencia de ser refugiados, la experiencia de ser esclavizados y amenazados, no son secundarios, están justo en el centro”.

“Nos unimos en vigilia con aquellos que están arriesgándose en Washington para cambiar el sistema migratorio, buscando una verdadera bienvenida para los refugiados. Apoyémoslos, unámonos con ellos a lo largo de toda la nación, y hagámoslo como personas de fe, porque eso es lo que nuestra fe nos llama a hacer”.



El obispo McElroy celebró la Misa del bicentenario en la Misión Indígena Santa Ysabel el 16 de septiembre de 2018.

Iniciativa Eucarística

“Incluso para quienes siempre han asistido a Misa, cuanto más entienda la gente acerca de la gracia, la profundidad y la riqueza de este regalo de Cristo en la Eucaristía, más profunda será la relación entre la gente y Dios”.

— Obispo McElroy, Obispo de San Diego



El obispo auxiliar Ramón Bejarano participó en una procesión de Corpus Christi el 26 de junio de 2022 en el centro de San Diego, el lanzamiento local del Renacimiento Eucarístico de los obispos de EE. UU.



Todas las parroquias pasaron la misma homilía el mismo domingo durante la Iniciativa Eucarística el pasado otoño.

Fuente y Cumbre de la Fe

Las estadísticas son asombrosas: Solamente un tercio de los Católicos del país creen que el pan y el vino en Misa se transforman en el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo, según una encuesta nacional publicada en agosto de 2019.

Esto explica porqué cuando en el verano de 2021, cuando las autoridades sanitarias levantaron las restricciones que limitaban las reuniones en el interior debido al Covid-19, la asistencia a los lugares de culto se había desplomado.

¿Cómo podemos utilizar este momento para renovar el amor de los fieles hacia la Eucaristía e inspirarlos a regresar a Misa de manera regular?

Para el obispo McElroy la respuesta fue lanzar un ambicioso programa de siete semanas en cada una de las 98 parroquias de la diócesis para incrementar el entendimiento y afecto de los fieles hacia el Sagrado Sacramento.

El programa tuvo un alcance sin precedentes y desafió a la diócesis, las parroquias y los párrocos para darle vida. Requería que todas las parroquias escucharan la misma homilía, pregrabada, durante tres domingos consecutivos. A estos les siguieron tres semanas de “Misas educativas”, en dónde se explicaban partes de la Misa conforme iba ocurriendo. Para posteriormente terminar con el párroco de cada parroquia proclamando una homilía que subrayara la importancia de la Eucaristía. Todo se presentó en el idioma de preferencia de los feligreses, inglés, español o vietnamita.

Un año después la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los EE.UU. lanzó su propia iniciativa, el Renacimiento Eucarístico Nacional, con la misma intención de incrementar el entendimiento de los Católicos sobre la Verdadera Presencia en la Eucaristía. La iniciativa de tres años incluye la realización de eventos especiales locales, regionales y a nivel nacional.

Con el precedente de la Iniciativa Eucarística, los fieles de la Diócesis de San Diego llevan ventaja.



La comunidad Hispana durante la Procesión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el 5 de diciembre de 2021.

"El Poderoso Regalo de la Diversidad Cultural"

Bajo el liderazgo del obispo McElroy la diócesis ha fortalecido sus comunidades culturales.

El Obispo ha invitado a sus líderes a participar en los consejos de toma de decisiones de la diócesis. La diversidad de voces, unidas por el amor a Dios, son un poderoso antídoto para las divisiones establecidas por la sociedad.

El Obispo nombró al padre Michael Pham para dirigir este ministerio. El padre Pham ha trabajado arduamente para ayudar a las comunidades a conservar sus tradiciones en la fe y a compartirlos con el resto de la comunidad Católica. Su oficina ayudó a la Comisión Hispana a actualizar estatutos, organizar retiros y apoyar eventos anuales, tales como la Cena de Unidad y la Procesión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.



El obispo McElroy estuvo presente en la celebración a la Virgen de Guadalupe que se realizó por el centro de San Diego.

Diversidad Multicultural



Puntos Destacados del Consistorio en Roma

Los feligreses de la Diócesis de San Diego podrán ver la alegre asamblea en donde el Papa Francisco elevará al obispo Robert McElroy y a otras 19 personas al Colegio Cardenalicio en el Vaticano el 27 de agosto. La asamblea, llamada consistorio, será transmitida en vivo, así como la primera Misa que nuestro Obispo McElroy celebrará como Cardenal al día siguiente.

Acompáñanos en Roma

Dos días después, el Papa Francisco celebrará Misa con todo el Colegio Cardenalicio, ceremonia que también será transmitida en vivo.

La comunidad también podrá seguir el camino de su pastor en Roma a través de las redes sociales de la diócesis: Facebook (@DioceseSanDiego) e Instagram (@SDCatholics). El contenido es bilingüe.

Más información sobre este momento histórico en la vida de la diócesis de San Diego estará disponible a través de sdccatholic.org.

AGENDA

VIERNES, 26 DE AGOSTO

Recepción en Honor al Cardenal Designado McElroy
Residencia del Embajador
Embajada de Estados Unidos ante la Santa Sede

SÁBADO, 27 DE AGOSTO

Consistorio Vaticano y Creación de Nuevos Cardenales
4-6 pm Hora de Roma
Basílica de San Pedro
7-9 am Hora del Pacífico

Visite sdccatholic.org para información sobre la transmisión en vivo

DOMINGO, 28 DE AGOSTO

Primera Misa del Cardenal McElroy Desde Roma
5-6 pm Hora de Roma
Parroquia Americana San Patricio
8-9 am Hora del Pacífico

Visite sdccatholic.org para información sobre la transmisión en vivo

LUNES – MARTES, 30 DE AGOSTO

Reunión Extraordinaria del Colegio Cardenalicio
Tema: Reforma de la Curia Romana

MARTES, 30 DE AGOSTO

Misa de Clausura para el Colegio Cardenalicio
Horario Pendiente
Basílica de San Pedro

Visite sdccatholic.org para información sobre la transmisión en vivo

Tradition

Dedicated in 1919, Holy Cross Cemetery and Mausoleum is a beautiful park of over forty acres, a place not only of reverent service to the deceased but of spiritual comfort to those who remain.



Sanctuary

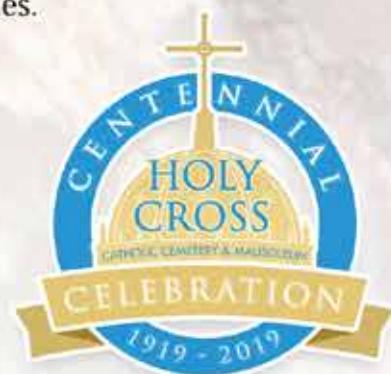
Holy Cross is not a commercial or civic enterprise, but an institution of the church, operated and maintained as a sacred trust. Interment may be arranged as desired, in consecrated ground or in imperishable mausoleum, solid proof against time and the elements.

FAITH

Holy Cross answers the demand of Catholic families for a final resting-place of the departed, in consecrated ground, reserved exclusively for adherents to the faith and their immediate families.

Commitment

This is our commitment: to maintain every facility with an intelligent anticipation of every need and desire. A complete sanctuary: for quiet seclusion, for contemplative reflection, for meditation, for dear memories; for the seeking of peace with one's self, with one's world, and with one's God.



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