

# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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**WELCOME!:** Pope Francis announced June 6 that Father Felipe Pulido, left, from the Diocese of Yakima, Wash., and Father Michael Pham, vicar general of the Diocese of San Diego, will become auxiliary bishops of the local diocese, joining Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano. Read about the path that led them to this distinction in this edition.



## Renewed Devotion

Pope Francis expresses hopes for Eucharistic Revival in U.S. **Page 2**



## Young Pilgrims

San Diego-area young adults among those headed to World Youth Day in Portugal. **Page 4**



## Ministry Men

Four local men ordained as priests for the Diocese of San Diego. **Pages 12-13**



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## THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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The Diocese of San Diego runs the length of California's border with Mexico and serves more than 1.3 million Catholics in San Diego and Imperial counties. It includes 98 parishes, 49 elementary and secondary schools, Catholic Charities and various social service and family support organizations throughout the region. It also includes five historic sites, the most well known of which is the Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, the first mission established in California by St. Junipero Serra in 1769.

## MORE FOR YOU

This symbol indicates where readers may go online to obtain more information about the subject at hand, including additional photos, video and other content.



# Two Housing Projects to Be Built

## The Southern Cross



Father Joe's  
Villages has  
announced

its plans to construct two  
new affordable housing  
communities.

The first will be located at the intersection of 17th and Commercial streets, while the second will be located at 16th Street and Island Avenue.

Groundbreaking is slated for the latter half of 2024 and, upon completion in early 2026, the new buildings will add more than 200 affordable and permanent supportive housing to the region.

"We envision a future where no one in our region is forced to live without a home, and these two new communities take us one step closer to that vision," said Deacon Jim Vargas, president and CEO of Father Joe's Villages. "We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the City of San Diego and other community leaders who are helping to make our goal of providing 2,000 units of affordable housing to the region a reality."

Construction of the property on 17th and Commercial streets will be funded in part by a \$4-million Community Development Block Grant awarded by the San Diego City Council on April 11 in a unanimous vote. The faith-based homeless ministry God's



**BIG NEWS:** Mayor Todd Gloria speaks at a press conference May 30, where Father Joe's Villages announced its plans to construct two new affordable housing communities.

Extended Hand transferred the use of the property at Island and 16th streets, which will be demolished to make room for the new construction, to Father Joe's Villages in 2022.

The plans for the two new affordable housing communities were made public during a May 30 press conference, where Deacon Vargas was joined by local elected officials, including San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and Councilmembers Sean Elo-Rivera and Stephen Whitburn.

The new buildings are part of Father Joe's Villages ongoing Turning the Key initiative, which was launched in 2017 and aims to create 2,000 units of affordable housing in San Diego through a combination of new construction on

lots owned by Father Joe's Villages as well as through the acquisition and refurbishment of local motels.

The first affordable housing community to emerge from the Turning the Key initiative was Benson Place, formerly an EZ-8 Motel in the Otay Mesa area, which was purchased by Father Joe's Villages in late 2019 and transformed by the following year into 82 fully-contained living units. The second was Saint Teresa of Calcutta Villa, a 14-story building constructed at the intersection of 14th and Commercial streets that offers a total of 407 units with community space on every floor; it welcomed its first residents in early January of 2022.

# Pope Champions Eucharist Revival

By Cindy Wooden



**VATICAN CITY —**  
Catholics need to  
recover a sense of  
awe and adoration before the  
Eucharist, knowing that it is  
"the real and loving presence  
of the Lord," Pope Francis told  
members of the committees  
organizing the National  
Eucharistic Revival and the  
National Eucharistic Congress  
in the United States.

Jesus spoke of Himself as "the living bread which came down from heaven, the true bread that gives life to the world," the pope told the group June 19.

"This morning, while I was celebrating the Eucharist, I thought about this a lot because it is what gives us life," the pope said. "Indeed, the Eucharist is God's response to the deepest hunger of the human heart, the hunger for authentic life because, in the Eucharist, Christ Himself is truly in our midst to nourish, console and sustain us on our journey."

Pope Francis blessed the 4-foot-tall monstrance, paten and chalice that will be used during the Eucharistic congress in Indianapolis July 17 to 21, 2024.

The group was led by Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minn., chair of



**PAPAL BLESSING:** Pope Francis blesses a 4-foot-tall monstrance, a chalice and a paten as Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens looks on in the library of the Apostolic Palace June 19.

the U.S. bishops' advisory group for the National Eucharistic Revival, a multi-year process aimed at renewing and strengthening faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and chair of the board of directors planning the Eucharistic congress.

Bishop Cozzens told *Catholic News Service* it was "an incredible privilege" to meet the pope and experience "his love, his passion for the Eucharist and for the work that we're about."

Pope Francis told the group that, unfortunately, today many Catholics "believe that the Eucharist is more a

symbol than the reality of the Lord's presence and love."

But, he said, "it is more than a symbol; it is the real and loving presence of the Lord."

"It is my hope, then, that the Eucharistic congress will inspire Catholics throughout the country to discover anew the sense of wonder and awe at the Lord's great gift of Himself," he said, "and to spend time with Him in the celebration of the holy Mass and in personal prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament."

*Catholic News Service*



# Cardinal Shares Rebirth in Synodal Church

By Denis Grasska



In welcoming the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests to the Diocese of San Diego for its 12th annual assembly, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy expressed his appreciation for the organization and its members.

"In the past, when I've been present at these assemblies, it's always an 'upper,'" he said, "and the reason is because you come together with a sense that something magnificent happened at the (Second Vatican) Council, and it transformed the Church, and it transformed your priesthood, and it transformed the people of God."

"You are carrying that with you into the current moment in your ministries, in your lives," he said.

Cardinal McElroy made these remarks during a homily at a vespers service at the University of San Diego on June 12, the first day of the four-day assembly.

On June 14, a local priest was among the recipients of the Pope St. John XXIII Awards, which were presented at a special banquet during the assembly. Father Emmet Farrell, a retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, has dedicated his retirement years to creation care ministry. The other honorees were the founders of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests and the co-directors of Discerning Deacons, an organization that advocates for the ordination of female deacons.

The Association of U.S. Catholic Priests includes among its priorities furthering the spirit of Vatican II, opposing racism, fostering nonviolence, combating climate change, and promoting immigration reform, the ordination of women to the diaconate, and mutual support for priests.

Immediately preceding vespers, Deacon Andy Orosco of the Diocese of San Bernardino, a Kumeyaay from the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, led a prayer that involved burning sage and praying toward the four cardinal directions. According to Native American tradition, he said, the East, the



**GREETINGS:** Cardinal Robert W. McElroy looks on as Deacon Andy Orosco welcomes attendees of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests' assembly June 12.



**HONOREE:** Father Greg Barras, left, chair of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests' leadership team, presents the Pope St. John XXIII Award to Father Emmett Farrell on June 14.

direction of the rising sun, represents new beginnings and opportunities; the South and the West symbolize youth and adulthood, respectively; and the North signifies "the winter of life."

In his homily, Cardinal McElroy noted the advanced age of most of the assembly's attendees, acknowledging that they — and he — are "facing the North."

"But in the Native American ... cul-

ture, there was such a great sense of the wisdom that came with those who are facing the North," he said, "and I welcome you today as men and women who retain the wisdom of your ministries and life in the Church."

At the same time, he said, those attending the assembly are also people who face the East and the South.

"In this moment, we also face the

East," said Cardinal McElroy. "We are, in a sense, children once again because we are in a synodal Church and in a synodal moment. And thus ... a new rebirth" is possible "in the life of the Church."

The theme of this year's assembly was "Unity Through Synodality."

Cardinal McElroy said that, in their early years in ministry, the attendees had encountered laypeople "who would open their souls to us," sharing their sufferings and struggles. This experience of the "pastoral dimension of the Church" is something that they must not lose.

To the degree that they preserve it, he said, they are also "facing South."

"I give gratitude that you are here," said Cardinal McElroy, as he drew his homily to a close. "I give gratitude for all that you have been and done in your lives. I give gratitude for all that you continue to do. And I urge you to see this moment, this synodal moment, as a moment of deep new possibilities for glorious opportunities in the life of the Church and also for a moment in which the pastoral mission of the Church can truly take center stage as the reflection which best enfleshes Jesus' call to us at the present moment."

## Parishes Preparing for Small-Group Sessions

The Southern Cross



Parishes are spending the summer months preparing for a new round of small-group sessions they will be hosting in October as part of the synodal process.

The sessions will focus on how parishes can become Eucharistic com-

munities, whose members more fully understand that the Eucharist is "the real and loving presence of the Lord," as Pope Francis recently said.

In coming weeks, parishioners will be invited to attend the sessions, to be held in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, as they were in the spring of 2022.

The synod is a four-year, worldwide initiative launched by the Vatican in 2021. The aim was to encourage the Church at all levels to invite community members

to participate in key discussions, listen to their concerns, and then work together to solve the challenges before them, guided by the Holy Spirit. The goal is to reenergize and renew the Church.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Church in the United States launched the National Eucharistic Revival, which is inviting all faithful to rediscover that the Eucharist "is the source and summit of our faith."

Since the revival calls on parishes to hold activities highlighting the Eucha-

rist this year, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy will use elements of that campaign for the synodal process.

Many participants in the initial round of sessions said they greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet fellow parishioners and to hear their concerns and hopes for the Church.

Information:  
[sdcatholic.org/synod](https://sdcatholic.org/synod)







**LISBON OR BUST:** The diocesan delegation to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, is seen outside the diocesan Pastoral Center June 15.

## 'Coachella Meets St. Peter's Square' in August

By Denis Grasska

Think "Coachella meets St. Peter's Square."

That's how one participant from the Diocese of San Diego described World Youth Day, where hundreds of thousands are expected to join Pope Francis in Lisbon, Portugal, from Aug. 1 to 6.

The diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry will be leading its own delegation of 25 young adults. It will be led by the office's director, Maricruz Flores, and one of its associate directors, Brilema Perez.

The other associate director, Evelyn Beale, who joined the office's staff in early June, will also be attending World Youth Day, but as a member of an international group sponsored by Bon Secours Young Adults and Maryknoll Young Adults.

Various local parishes will be sending their own groups of pilgrims, including Santa Sophia Parish in Spring Valley, with a group of 35; St. James Parish in Solana Beach and its St. Leo Mission with 15 and 22, respectively; St. Patrick Parish in Carlsbad, with 16; and St. Pius X Parish in Chula Vista with six.

St. Augustine High School will have a 40-member delegation, and the University of San Diego will be sending a group of 11.

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy will also be heading to Lisbon, where he will celebrate Mass on Wednesday, Aug. 2, for pilgrims from his diocese.



Before their departure, all San Diego-area pilgrims are invited to a "Commissioning Mass" celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano. About 150 people are expected to attend the Mass, which will be celebrated at 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 25, in the diocesan Pastoral Center's chapel. A reception will follow.

In addition to World Youth Day's packed schedule of Masses, catechesis, talks, devotions, and events with the pope, participating groups will personalize their trips. For example, both the diocesan and USD groups will be visiting the Marian apparition site at Fatima; pilgrims from St. Augustine High School will attend the Augustinian Youth Encounter, held in Lisbon the week before World Youth Day, and extend their trip with two nights in Madrid; and the St. Patrick Parish group, which will be traveling with the St. James-St. Leo group, will be in France just prior to World Youth Day.

Started by Pope St. John Paul II in 1985, World Youth Day is a pilgrimage experience for Catholics ages 16 to 35, which is held every two or three years

in a different city around the world. The most recent World Youth Day was held in Panama City, Panama, in 2019. It has been held once in the United States, in 1993 in Denver, Colo.

This year's theme is "Mary arose and went with haste (Luke 1:39)," a reference to the Blessed Mother's response after learning from the Archangel Gabriel that her cousin Elizabeth was six months pregnant.

Cony Garcia, a 28-year-old member of St. Anne Parish, is "full of excitement and peace" as she prepares to attend World Youth Day for the first time this year as part of the diocesan delegation.

"What I find attractive about attending (World Youth Day) is the large number of youth from many parts of the world that will be attending," she said. "It is a reminder that our faith is alive."

"I am hoping to increase my love for God and learn more about my faith," she said. "Also, since I am discerning my vocation, hopefully I will be able to find answers about what God wants from me."

Perez, who attended World Youth Day in Madrid in 2011 with a group from St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista, said the leaders of the diocesan delegation have told their pilgrims that World Youth Day is a true pilgrimage, not "a luxurious trip." She said the pilgrims have been warned to be ready for some "tough moments," including the physical exertion of walking long distances amid summer

heat and finding themselves packed in crowds of thousands.

As part of their preparation, members of the diocesan delegation attended a day of recollection in early April at Mission San Luis Rey Parish in Oceanside and participated in the third annual SD Catholic Pilgrimage Walk, an over 7-mile roundtrip walk from Mission San Luis Rey to Prince of Peace Abbey, which began with a prayer service and included Mass at the abbey.

Perez explained that the latter event served as "both a physical ... and a spiritual preparation" for World Youth Day.

Flores echoed that sentiment, noting that World Youth Day pilgrims will be "really tested, not only in your faith, but how long your feet are going to last," but the experience will provide a strong reminder that "we're not alone": "We have brothers and sisters in Christ that are ... literally walking with us."

The World Youth Day in Lisbon will be the first for Jocelyn Tejeda, a youth minister at St. Patrick Parish in Carlsbad, who will lead her parish's group.

The 28-year-old Tejeda said she is making "a mental countdown" as the date of her group's departure draws near, and she feels "rushed with adrenaline, thinking of the great adventure the Lord has in store for us."

"Attending World Youth Day is an opportunity for myself, alongside the

**Youth** Continued on Page 5



**Youth** *Continued from Page 4*

youth participants of my parish, to see ourselves represented in a Church that encourages us to share our talents, strengths and ideas," she said. "I am excited to grow more in my own faith, and come back home to my parish and share about my faith experiences, hopefully encouraging other youth to attend future World Youth Days."

She hopes that her group's youth, as well as their adult chaperones, will return home from the experience with "a sense of renewed purpose."

For Alec Hartman, associate university minister in USD's University Ministry department, who will be leading a group of 10 undergraduate students, this will be his first time attending what friends and colleagues have told him is "a life-changing experience."

The group of pilgrims from USD has been meeting throughout the spring semester to prepare.

Among other things, Hartman said, group members have shared their faith journeys and reflected together on "what it means to be a young person in the Church, and how we might approach World Youth Day with a pilgrim's disposition rather than as a tourist."

"My hope for myself and for our group attending World Youth Day, is to experience a connection to our global, Universal Church through gathering and praying with young Catholics from around the world," he said. "During the times of COVID, it was often difficult to feel connected to the Local Church, let alone global, so there's a collective yearning for that sense of connection."



**HAND-IN-HAND:** Pope Francis walks with World Youth Day pilgrims as he arrives for a prayer vigil at the Field of Mercy in Krakow, Poland, in 2016.

He added, "I hope the spiritual impact for our group will be a reminder that, as young people, we aren't alone in our desire to seek Christ and aspiration of deepening our faith lives. I hope that each member of our group will experience their faith in a way that inspires them to live it out wherever their journey might take them."

Augustinian Father Maxime Villeneuve, chaplain at St. Augustine High School, is a five-time veteran of World Youth Day, including four previous times leading a group from the school. Those experiences have left him with indelible memories.

"I will never forget cheering and praying through the storm that hit Madrid with Pope Benedict, the beauty of Mass on Copacabana Beach, or singing 'Jesus Christ, You Are My Life' in Krakow," he recalled.

Father Villeneuve will be taking

another group of St. Augustine High School students this August. Their departure will be preceded by a "pilgrim's blessing and Mass" on Saturday, July 22, on campus. Members of the school's World Youth Day delegation and their families are invited to attend.

"We are very excited to attend (World Youth Day) and provide an amazing faith-filled experience for Saintsmen," said Father Villeneuve. "The scale of the event is unlike any other event that you can attend. It's 'Coachella meets St. Peter's Square.' It is vibrant and joyful."

He added, "Being with the Holy Father, in union with people from all over the world, is truly moving. Seeing all the flags and places that people come from makes a huge impact: The Church is truly Catholic (meaning 'universal')."

Fabian O. Castillo, 16, is among the students that Father Villeneuve will

be leading.

He said, "I hope this pilgrimage helps me encounter Jesus, to learn more about my spiritual journey, to incentivize me, and strengthen me in continuing to answer the call God has for me in serving Him by serving others and live a more Jesus-like life."

For those who missed out on signing up for this year's World Youth Day, the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry hopes that the group it put together for World Youth Day represents only the first of many such opportunities.

Perez said, "We're hoping that maybe this will open up doors for more pilgrimages."

Follow World Youth Day  
at [lisboa2023.org/en](https://lisboa2023.org/en) in  
English and [lisboa2023.org/es](https://lisboa2023.org/es)  
in Spanish.

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# Day Center for Homeless Officially Opens

By Sharon Burns



EL CENTRO —  
“Jesus was born  
homeless, and  
there was no place for (the  
Holy Family) to sleep.”

“This is the need in front of us now,” Cardinal Robert W. McElroy told those gathered at the public launch May 31 of the day center Catholic Charities opened to help the homeless get on their feet. “When we welcome people seeking food and shelter, we see in these men and women the person of Jesus Christ.”

He blessed the center and the people who entered its doors.

The center is a one-of-its-kind facility in Imperial County that provides “wrap-around” services seven days a week, 365 days a year, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Homeless individuals can eat there, do laundry, take a shower, or take a respite from extreme temperatures. They can also get referrals to address needs, such as for mental health issues, substance-abuse problems, to find a job, or to obtain disability benefits.

The modular building is located behind Catholic Charities’ offices at 250 W. Orange Ave. The center had a soft opening on Feb. 15.

Appaswamy “Vino” Pajanor, CEO of Catholic Charities, said that the center served 388 individuals just in the last two months, 75 percent of them from El Centro. The others came from nearby Calexico, Brawley, Imperial and Holtville.

The director of the Imperial County Department of Social Services, Paula



**SAMPLES TO GO:** Pedro Ramirez, Catholic Charities’ program manager for Homeless Services, readied “brown bags” of food May 31 to give to guests at the public launch of the agency’s day center that serves the homeless in El Centro.

Llanas, was among the guests on hand, which included El Centro council members; a representative from U.S. Senator Alex Padilla’s office; Father Mark Edney, pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Parish; the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament; and two clients of the center.

“We have close to 1,000 unsheltered individuals in our county,” Llanas said.

The department is a partner of the center, as are the City of El Centro and

the state government.

Llanas said it’s looking for funding to be able to provide the clients affordable housing, mental health assistance, among other services.

The regional director for Southern California for Gov. Gavin Newsom, Maurice Lyles, was also on hand. He said there is funding available from the state for housing, with “\$58 million allocated

to this region.”

In his remarks, the cardinal cited the Gospel of Matthew (14:13-21), where Jesus multiplied five loaves of bread to feed a hungry crowd of 5,000.

He said, “This is the need in front of us now.”

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#OC15



# Renovated School a Blessing to Valley Students

By Sharon Burns



CALEXICO — Almost four years to the day of the initial groundbreaking, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy blessed Vincent Memorial Catholic High School, site of a major renovation at the valley's only Catholic high school.

Faculty and staff, students and parents turned out for the May 31 ceremony, which began with a Mass in the school gym. A procession followed in which the cardinal sprinkled holy water outside a new science building and inside its hallways and in the interior of a new chapel.

The occasion marked a significant milestone in the school's 74-year history.

The renovation aimed to revitalize the school's infrastructure and provide students with modern facilities. The project included the new building, which houses a science lab, seven classrooms and the chapel; the remodeling of existing classrooms; new sidewalks; a new staff parking area; new exterior paint; and an attractive new front gate.

Gone are the old trailers that had been used for classrooms for decades.

"We lost track of (the cost), but it's over \$6 million," said Sister Lupita Hernández, SJS, the school's principal. An initial projection had pegged renovation at nearly \$4 million.

"We did receive a donation from the diocese of \$500,000, and a donation from a foundation that wishes to re-



**MILESTONE:** Cardinal Robert W. McElroy blessed the new science building at Vincent Memorial Catholic High School on May 31 in Calexico.

main anonymous."

The school and its supporters tirelessly raised funds for nearly a decade to make the renovation a reality.

She said student enrollment increased from 245 to 350 since the renovation was completed by the fall of 2021, when students were able to resume in-person learning as the pandemic eased.

Rodrigo Valdivia, the diocese's vice moderator of the Curia, also was on hand. He had worked with the finance and administrative offices to oversee the renovation and fundraising.

"The whole objective was to provide a better learning environment

in a place where (students) could feel happy and proud," Valdivia said, adding, "It was a great thing for the Church to do for the students of Calexico and Mexicali."

The cardinal addressed the students during the Mass, saying the upgrades will help their education and build character.

"It's a great joy to be here today," he told them.

He highlighted three points. The first one was about expectations and how they will constantly change.

"Don't think only of yourself," he said in his second point, underscoring the Gospel message that Mary's "yes"

to God was a form of self-sacrifice.

His final point was about having the grace to understand God's will.

"God loves you, no matter what you do," the cardinal emphasized, "even if you walk away."

Then Bishop McElroy was present May 28, 2019, at the groundbreaking for the new building.

At the time, he said that Vincent Memorial "unites a wonderful heritage of faith and academic excellence that brings together the bonds of Imperial County and Mexico in a common faith and humanity which unites us all."



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the program





PHOTOS BY MARCOS GÓZALEZ

**MISSION ACTIVITY:** A performance by Ballet Folklórico dancers on June 17 was among the many activities at the Mission San Luis Rey Fiesta. The event showcased the rich cultural traditions and history associated with the mission, which marks its 225th anniversary this year.

#### The Southern Cross



OCEANSIDE — The Mission San Luis Rey Fiesta returned to the mission grounds for the first time in 25 years.

The three-day event, held June 16 to 18, included food, live music, games and other activities, including the crowning of a Fiesta Queen, Princess, and Little Prince and Little Princess.

Mission San Luis Rey, which was founded in 1798, is celebrating its 225th anniversary this year.



**ART HISTORY:** Mission San Luis Rey Fiesta-goers on June 17 contribute to one panel of what will be a 225-foot, three-panel mural depicting the mission's past, present and its hopes for the future. The panel pictured features a village of Luiseño Indians, the native people of the mission land.

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# Tensions, Challenges and Hopes in an Ordinary Day



In an ordinary day at the entrance to a daycare, you can see some children crying; mothers or fathers rushing to get to their jobs on time; some kids walking away smiling and saying hello, others fiercely clinging to their parents.

What happens before leaving home? When you have a flexible schedule and grandparents, family members or nannies to help out, these moments are less stressful, the children's pace is respected and there's a greater level of satisfaction with the whole process. There's time to wait between spoonfuls and even between foods, to linger a while longer in the bathroom, or make a clothing switch at the last minute.

Surely, the children who belong to this group leave their parents more content and plunge less fearful into the day's experiences. The children's

## Columnist

**Ricardo Márquez**



basic emotional needs of accompaniment, support and self-esteem have been better satisfied ... and that gives them greater security to face unfamiliar spaces, situations and people.

In the great cities, the family — with its distinct forms and models — has been reduced and become isolated in its own practices. The need to live a life with dignity pushes fathers and mothers to work long hours, often two jobs. The extended family, which had a role to support new couples in the Hispanic culture, for example, was left behind, on the other side of the border.

In that context, the hours before going to school become a torturous power struggle at home. Anxious parents are worried about arriving on time

at their job and meeting their duties. Accumulated exhaustion and frustrations can fuel screaming or even violence, a hard yank of an arm, and discouraging words: "Don't be lazy," "You're never going to learn," "If we're late it's your fault."

Can you imagine how a child grows up amid these practices that are repeated every day before going to school?"

The intention of this reflection is not to judge, nor to make those who have no option feel bad as they face the social and economic realities we're all facing. Every child is unique, as is each family and living situation. The intention is to raise awareness of our own practices and to see what results we're creating.

If what prevails is stress, dissatisfaction, discouragement, aggressiveness or depression, then there's an opportunity to introduce small changes to improve the emotional climate of the period before going to school.

Some families leave food prepared

or clothes ready the night before, a simple step that can result in a meaningful change when it's time to leave. Value any expression of collaboration that encourages the child to feel better about himself or herself: "Thank you for opening the door."

At night, take advantage of those moments before sleep: Do a simple prayer, give thanks for the best the day offered, ask for forgiveness for offenses, and express a message of confidence, asking, "What could we do tomorrow to love each other more?"

Motivated adults create the environment to educate and to help their children to feel motivated, to feel loved, respected and accompanied.

Parents are not alone. Our parishes have prayer groups, couples' ministries and community services that are ready to help fathers and mothers better fulfill our mission.

Ricardo Márquez can be reached at [marquez\\_muskus@yahoo.com](mailto:marquez_muskus@yahoo.com).

## Am I Called?

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**Does the idea come to me often?**

**Does the idea scare me?**

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# Father Pulido: A Life of 'Saying Yes to the Lord'



LEONARDO ENRIQUE FONSECA

By Denis Grasska



In early June, Father Felipe Pulido told his

mother that he needed to call a family meeting because he had big news to share.

She had her suspicions about what the major revelation would be: Her son was leaving the priesthood, she thought.

Boy, was she wrong!

A priest of the Diocese of Yakima, Wash., the 53-year-old Father Pulido has been named one of two new auxiliary bishops for the Diocese of San Diego. The other is Father Michael Pham, a priest of the diocese who currently serves as vicar general, head of the Office for Ethnic and Intercultural Communities, and pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Mira Mesa.

The two men will be consecrated bishops at a Mass celebrated Sept. 28. They will join Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano assisting Cardinal Robert W. McElroy in ministering to the almost 1.5 million Catholics of San Diego and Imperial counties.

On June 6, the date that their appointments were announced, the two auxiliary bishops-elect were introduced to the staff at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

"I'm very grateful to Pope Francis for understanding the vitality of the Diocese of San Diego and the need for pastoral leadership in San Diego, and for appointing two additional auxiliary bishops," Cardinal McElroy told the staff.

Describing the appointments as "a great grace to us as a diocese," the cardinal jokingly referred to the two men beside him — Father Pulido, a native of Mexico, and Father Pham, who was born in Vietnam — as "twins."

When it was his turn to speak, Bishop-elect Pulido gave local Catholics a first glimpse of the character and personality of one of their two new shepherds.

"My first question to God when I received the announcement was, 'Why me? Why me?' There are so many

other people that can do better than I," he said.

He recalled becoming emotional when the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, phoned to inform him that he had been named auxiliary bishop. And he confessed that he initially didn't know how to respond.

Fortunately for him, the nuncio had a suggestion: "Just say yes."

"Looking back, that's how my life has been, just saying yes to the Lord," the bishop-elect told the Pastoral Center staff.

Bishop-elect Pulido was born on Jan. 13, 1970, in Dos Aguas, Michoacán, Mexico, a small town west of Mexico City. He was the first of José M. Pulido and Cristina Lopez's seven children.

While addressing the Pastoral Center staff, he shared how he accepted an invitation to attend a middle school and high school seminary in Michoacán, when he was 12 years old.

"I said, 'Okay, why not? I'll go and see what it's like.' And I loved it," he said.

But ultimately, he left the seminary to gain "a little more experience in the world, to see what it's like to have a girlfriend ... and get a job."

**'I'm happy to be here in San Diego. ... I'm here to serve and to love.'**

In an interview with *The Southern Cross* the following day, he expanded upon the story of the first stirrings of



COURTESY FATHER FELIPE PULIDO

**BEARING FRUIT:** A young Felipe Pulido picks apples in the Yakima Valley for a Washington fruit company circa 1989.

his priestly vocation. Before entering the seminary, he was attending Mass at his home parish, when a group of seminarians spoke to the congregation.

"I listened to them ... and one thing that I really liked was that they were very happy," he said. "They laughed, and they were just having a good time."

Their joy was attractive.

After Mass, he told his grandmother that he wanted to be a priest. She was surprised, but "looked up to Heaven" and thanked God for having answered

her prayer to have a priest in the family.

In the summer of 1988, he moved with his parents to the Yakima Valley in Washington State, where he found work in the booming agricultural sector, picking fruit and vegetables with his family.

He graduated from Highland High School in Cowiche, and for three years worked as a teacher assistant with the Epic Migrant Head Start program.

His sense of a call to the priesthood returned and grew stronger when he was 23 years old. For a period of about five months, he helped care for Father Jerry Corrigan, a priest in his parish who was dying of cancer.

He and Father Corrigan had many conversations during that time and, during one of them, the dying priest invited him to consider entering the priesthood. Bishop-elect Pulido, who was dating someone at the time and wasn't seriously considering becoming a priest, said he would think about it.

"And then, I just said yes again, because I loved the diocese," he said.

In 1994, he began his priestly formation at Mt. Angel Seminary in Oregon. Four years later, he began theological studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, when now Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York was the rector.

Bishop-elect Pulido, who is bilingual in English and Spanish, became a U.S. citizen in 1998. From 2001 to 2002, he studied at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family in Rome.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 28, 2002, by Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., at St. Paul's Cathedral in Yakima.



COURTESY FATHER FELIPE PULIDO

**MASS:** Father Felipe Pulido is seen with parishioners in Yakima, Wash., circa 2016.

**Pulido** Continued on Page 19



# Father Pham: From Refugee to Auxiliary Bishop



LEONARDO ENRIQUE FONSECA

By Denis Grasska



Of the two men recently appointed auxiliary bishops of San Diego, one — Father Felipe Pulido of the Diocese of Yakima, Wash., — is a stranger to the diocese.

But the other, Father Michael Pham, is a familiar face.

Bishop-elect Pham was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of San Diego in 1999 and, over his years of ministry, has been entrusted with positions of increasing responsibility — from pastor, to episcopal vicar for ethnic and intercultural communities, to vicar general. The latter gave him authority to act as the bishop's representative in matters of diocesan administration.

For a priest who has acquitted himself well in each of those roles, an appointment as auxiliary bishop was a logical next step.

On June 6, Pope Francis announced the appointment of Bishops-elect Pham and Pulido.

Later that day, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy presented the two men to the staff of the diocesan Pastoral Center, allowing each to briefly share his story.

Bishop-elect Pham, 56, expressed his joy at being named an auxiliary bishop, describing it as “a very wonderful day that the Lord has made.”

“I’m so grateful and thankful for the blessings that God has bestowed upon me,” he said, “and I’m looking forward to sharing whatever I have (with) the diocese and to serve God’s people.”

Born in 1967 in Da Nang, Vietnam, Bishop-elect Pham and his family experienced many challenges and hardships during the Vietnam War and, subsequently, as refugees.

In 1975, when he was 8 years old, his family boarded an empty rice cargo barge to flee the advancing North Vietnamese Army. They spent several days at sea, with neither food nor drinking water. He experienced terrible seasickness and saw many bodies on the floor of the barge as he left the scene.



COURTESY FATHER MICHAEL PHAM

**SAFE LANDINGS:** Members of Bishop-elect Michael Pham's family arrive as refugees in Minnesota in 1983.

“I thought they were sleeping,” he said, “but I came to realize that they were dead.”

Bishop-elect Pham considers it “a moment of grace” that his entire family made it safely.

The day after they docked, the family learned that the North Vietnamese Army was on the cusp of taking over the city. So, almost immediately, they headed even further south.

**‘(I will work with the cardinal) to make our diocese ... more and more vibrant.’**

They lived in a small town called Lam Son, where farming and fishing enabled them to survive with a large family. Since his father was able to fish, he helped the family to leave Vietnam.

In 1980, with his older sister and a younger brother, he fled to Malaysia aboard a small boat packed with 119

passengers. At sea for four nights and three days, he said the boat was pursued by authorities of the Communist government, pummeled by massive waves that he likened to something out of the film “The Perfect Storm,” and even boarded by pirates. A collision with the pirate ship damaged the refugees’ boat, splitting the bow almost in half.

Miraculously, the family survived.

He, his older sister and younger brother lived in a refugee camp in Malaysia for about seven months before they were sponsored by an American family and relocated to Blue Earth, Minn., in 1981. They were joined there a few months later by another sister. In 1983, his remaining four siblings and his parents arrived.

The family moved to San Diego in 1985, attracted by the warmer weather they had experienced during a visit to relatives there.

He graduated from San Diego High School and San Diego State University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Engineering. He began working on a master’s in Engineering, but did not

finish before entering the seminary.

While in his junior year of college, he took a philosophy class that inspired him to think more deeply about the purpose of life and what was most important. After graduating and beginning a career as an aerospace engineer, he felt “some sort of emptiness,” like “something was missing” in his life. But he experienced joy and peace as a volunteer catechist at his parish, Good Shepherd Church in Mira Mesa.

Though he began to feel called to the priesthood, he delayed entering the seminary because his parents weren’t initially supportive of the idea. Eventually, however, he knew that he had to explore his vocation or that he would regret it.

He began his priestly formation at St. Francis Center, located on the campus of the University of San Diego, and completed his theological studies at St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, Calif., earning a Baccalaureate degree in Systematic Theology and a Master of Divinity. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 25, 1999. He completed a Master of Science in Psychology at the University of Phoenix in 2009. In 2020, he completed his Licentiate degree in Systematic Theology from the University of St. Thomas (Angelicum) in Rome through his studies at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

Bishop-elect Pham has served as associate pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish in Oceanside, diocesan vocations director, and pastor of Holy Family Parish in Linda Vista, St. Therese Parish in Del Cerro and, from 2016 through the present, Good Shepherd Parish.

When he was appointed vicar for ethnic and intercultural communities in 2017, Bishop-elect Pham said “the first thing that came to my mind” was the idea of bringing “people of



COURTESY FATHER MICHAEL PHAM

**BROTHERLY LOVE:** Michael Pham is seen with younger brother John. The two brothers and an older sister, Huong, in 1981 were the first in their family to come to the United States.

**Pham** Continued on Page 19



# 'Great Day of Joy'



PHOTOS BY ANDY HAYT



## The Southern Cross



Cardinal Robert W. McElroy ordained four men to the priesthood on June 2 at a Mass at Good Shepherd Church, witnessed by 1,600 faithful.

Beforehand, the cardinal chatted informally with the four, Evan Bui, Christopher Bongato, Marc Andrew Gandolfo and Matthew Vasquez.

They initially sat with their families, and seminarian Gandolfo was able to share a light moment with his father.

The ceremony included rituals, rich in meaning and history, such as prostration, laying on of hands, anointing of hands, and receiving the stole and chasuble.

After the Mass, now Father Bongato gave his first blessing to his parents, who were celebrating their wedding anniversary.

"This is a great day of joy for me personally and for the whole of the Diocese of San Diego," the cardinal said, addressing the seminarians. "Each of you is a splendid man of faith and sacrifice who has come this day to give the greatest gift that you will ever give in your life — the gift of your very selves offered in service to God and the Church. I thank you for this gift, and for the experiences that have led you to this moment."

*Photo gallery available at [thesoutherncross.org/ordination2023](https://thesoutherncross.org/ordination2023)*











**The Southern Cross**  
Around 3,500 men, women and children — some even too young to walk — turned out June 10 and 11 at Cathedral Catholic High School for the Million Meal Event. It was organized for a second year in a row by the diocese’s deacons.

Families, parish groups, and students joyously packed 1.5 million meals to the beat of music.

The number of volunteers and meals packed set a record for any event organized by the nonprofit Kids Around the World, the deacons’ partner. The meals will feed hungry families south of the border and in Africa. Donations are still needed to cover all costs. They may be made online at [sdccatholic.org/donate-to-million-meals](https://sdccatholic.org/donate-to-million-meals), or by check made out to “Catholic Diocese of San Diego,” with “Million Meal Event” on the memo line, and mailed to Catholic Diocese of San Diego, P.O. Box 85728, San Diego, CA 92186-5728.



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By Christina Bagaglio Slentz



In the month of July, we celebrate the land we now recognize as the United States of America and ask for God's blessings upon our country.

Endowed with vast resources and majestic beauty, it is no wonder that so many have risked it all to be here. This edition, we take time to learn about the geological history and natural resources of our "home, sweet home." Doing so prayerfully, we can recognize the Giver in this gift and better understand our opportunity for relationship with our Lord in caring for this land that we love.

### O Beauty, Ever Ancient

Though the geological history of North America spans more than 4 billion years — maybe a day or two in God's time! — rocks, fossils, landscapes and geologic structures help us understand a great deal about the past events and climate fluctuations that prepared our homeland for humanity. For example, V-shaped valleys tend to indicate stream erosion, whereas U-shaped valleys are more likely the result of glaciers. Those purple mountain ranges? Shifting tectonic plates pushed "wrinkles" into the earth's surface over millennia. Our fertile Midwestern plains? Sedimentary rock reveals ancient shallow



North America 90 million years ago, a shallow seaway covering much of central North America.

seas poured into Middle America as sea levels rose with changes in climate and heaving ocean floors due to volcanic activity and continental transformation.



Our very own Sierra Nevada is the remains of magma chambers of older volcanic ranges. These large exposures of granite were lifted when a mid-ocean ridge called the East Pacific Rise collided with North America about 30 million years ago — also bringing about the San Andreas Fault. Since then, the erosion of these mountains by rivers, landslides and glaciers has produced much of the gold-laden gravel found in California's Central Valley, illustrating the grandeur of God's creation and the tiny threads woven into God's plan that have brought us to our current era.

### O Beauty, Ever New

Today, this geological history has evolved into a largely safe and hospitable national habitat. The North American continent enjoys more climate variation than any other and is host to almost every type of ecosystem on the planet, ranging from coral reefs to glacial ice sheets. As a result, natural resources are plentiful. Fruit and vegetable crops, cotton, corn, soybeans and wheat are easily grown. Land for grazing cattle, hogs, goats and sheep supports the meat and dairy industries. Our vast forests provide timber, and generous mineral, oil and natural gas deposits have facilitated energy, construction, and technological sectors.

Stewarding these resources responsibly, however, is a significant challenge. Overharvesting, monoculture (repetitive farming of singular crops at the risk of depleting soil nutrients), and environmental hazards related to mining and drilling threaten the sustainability of our United States. Tilling and keeping

the soil, as we are called to do in Genesis 2:15, is not simply about ensuring our prosperity. Rather, living in harmony with creation nurtures our relationship with the Lord, responding to our higher calling to take part in God's loving plan, charitably interconnected with one another over distance as well as time. Poet Katherine Lee Bates prays for such spiritual attainment in her last lines of the third verse of "America the Beautiful," writing:

*America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness,  
And every gain divine!*

May you enjoy a happy Fourth of July and may God continue to bless America!



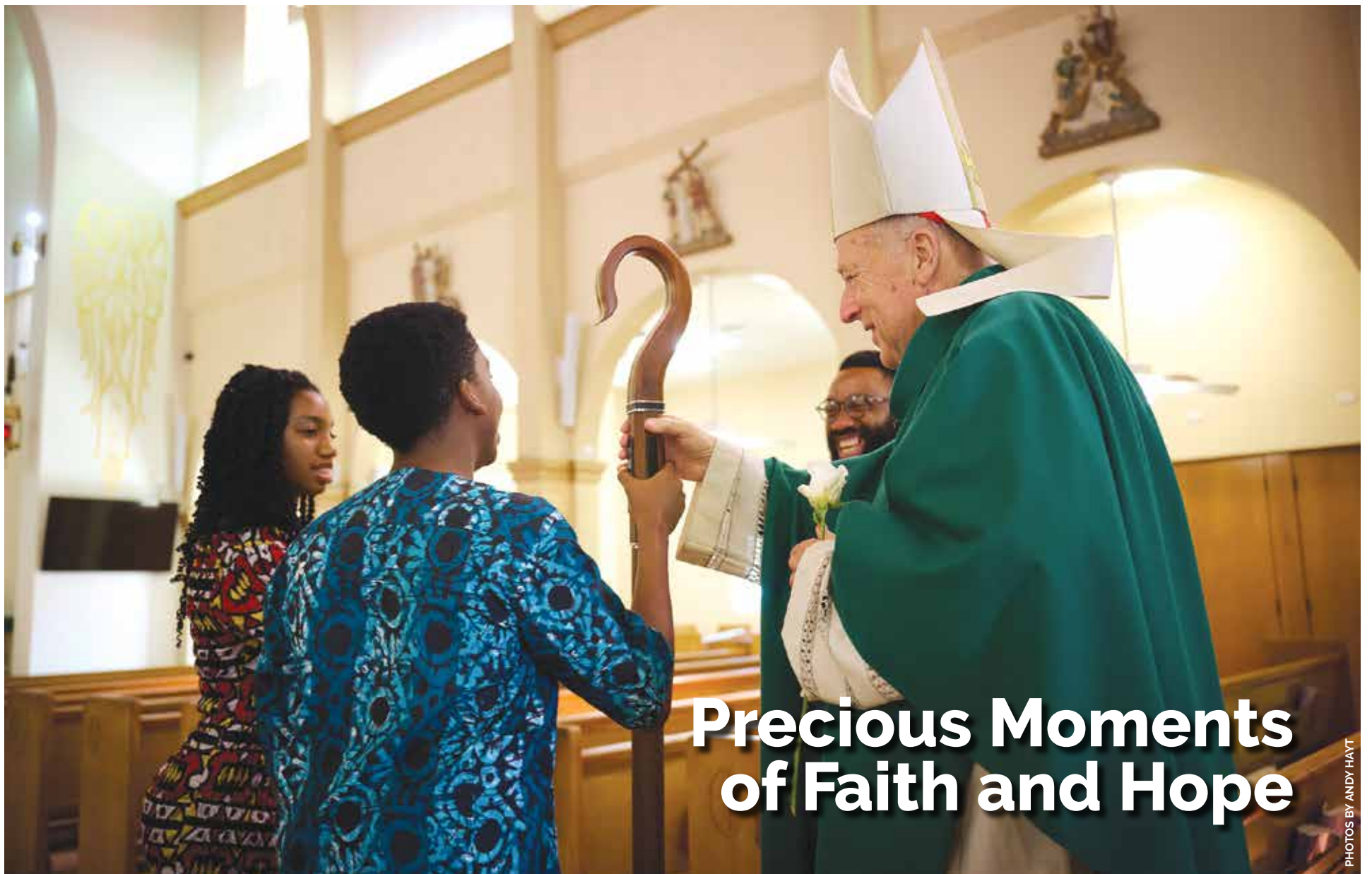
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## Precious Moments of Faith and Hope

PHOTOS BY ANDY HAYT



### The Southern Cross



The diocese's annual Juneteenth Mass brought together the community to mark the official end of slavery in the United States, and to honor the resilience and faith of enslaved people.

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy celebrated the Mass at St. Rita's Church on June 18, organized by the diocese's Commission for African American Catholics.

"This day we remember the terrible

era of slavery and the heroism of those who overcame it and brought through it their faith, hope and an understanding of God's presence in their lives; and contributed all that to our society over all these years," the cardinal said.

Alice Cooper Smith, a storyteller, also spoke during the Mass.

Every father received a white rose to mark Father's Day, including Fathers Chima Offurum and Silverio Espenilla, Jr., the parish's pastor.

After the Mass, the cardinal shared precious moments with young and old, on a special day of faith and hope.





**The Southern Cross**

The diocese is a vibrant home to many cultures, all united as one family of God.

Around 3,200 of their members attended the diocese's sixth annual Pentecost Mass for All Peoples, many wearing their native dress.

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy celebrated the Mass on May 27 in the Miramar San Diego College gym. The ceremony included representatives of Catholic cultural communities laying cloths on the altar adorned with their colors and symbols.

The Mass shared the traditions of many cultures, prayers in many languages, and songs from a multicultural choir.

Afterward, the communities shared their traditional dances, music and food, a complete celebration of faith and culture.

*Photo gallery available at [sdcatholic.org/pentecost-2023](http://sdcatholic.org/pentecost-2023)*





## News Briefs

### Theatrical Film Dramatizes Work of Anti-Trafficking Hero

PROVO, Utah – The new film “Sound of Freedom,” starring Jim Caviezel, is coming to theaters nationwide, beginning July 4.

The film is based on the true story of former U.S. government agent Tim Ballard, who quit his job to dedicate his life to saving children from sex trafficking. Caviezel, who is best known for his portrayal of Jesus in Mel Gibson’s “The Passion of the Christ,” plays Ballard in the film.

“I am so proud to be a part of this impactful film,” the actor said. “In fact, I’d say this is the second-most important film I’ve done after ‘The Passion of the Christ.’”

Written and directed by Alejandro Monteverde, the film also stars Academy Award-winner Mira Sorvino and Eduardo Verástegui, who is also a producer.

### Chapel Renovation Project Gets Big Boost

John Paul the Great Catholic University, also known as JPCatholic, has received a \$1-million lead gift for its St. Teresa of Calcutta Chapel renovation.

The donor family, who have asked to remain anonymous, are the parents of a JPCatholic alum. Their donation greatly accelerates the university’s campaign to complete the fundraising necessary to renovate its chapel building, which was purchased in 2016.

So far, the university has raised \$2 million, which is 40% of the estimated \$5 million required for the project.

The 10,000-square-foot Mediterranean Revival structure was purchased in 2016 for \$800,000 with the help of a lead \$330,000 gift from a San Diego family. The chapel design received a \$100,000 lead gift from the Los Angeles-based Dan Murphy Foundation.

In addition to the chapel renovation, JPCatholic’s multi-year comprehensive \$18-million “Build for Impact” fundraising campaign seeks to raise funds for student scholarships and to renovate the university’s Creative Arts Academic Complex.

“The addition of our Creative Arts complex and chapel promise to transform JPCatholic — both intellectually and spiritually. ... As we celebrate 20 years (since the university’s founding), now is the perfect time to ensure our continued growth and our pursuit of academic and operational excellence,” said JPCatholic’s founding president, Dr. Derry Connolly.

For more information or to support the “Build for Impact” campaign, visit [jpcatholic.edu/giving/index.php](http://jpcatholic.edu/giving/index.php).

### Saints Names Building After Team Doctor

A new building at St. Augustine High School has been given a name: The Jerome “Doc” Wisniew ’64 Athletic Training Room.

Wisniew was honored May 2 on the high school’s campus in recognition of his community service to members of the school community.

A member of the graduating class of 1964, Wisniew is a doctor of podiatric medicine who has served as the high school’s team podiatrist for 50 years.

### Catholics Can ‘Encounter’ Jesus in Rancho Peñasquitos

Encounter, a Spirit-filled evening of inspiring music, prayer, Eucharistic adoration, a healing service and reconciliation, is held on the second Friday of each month at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Rancho Peñasquitos.

Sponsored by the parish’s Hearts of Fire Ministry, the event runs from 7 to 8 p.m.

Upcoming dates include July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish is located at 13541 Stoney Creek Road, San Diego 92129.

For more information, contact the Hearts of Fire Ministry at [olmcheartsoffire@gmail.com](mailto:olmcheartsoffire@gmail.com).

### Men Invited to Join ‘Rosary Crusade’

The Men’s Rosary Crusade gathers at 9 a.m., every first Saturday of the month, at the corner of 6th & Laurel in Balboa Park. All men are welcome.

The rosary intentions are for reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the conversion of America, for families and for the unborn.

For more information, email [sdrosarycrusade@gmail.com](mailto:sdrosarycrusade@gmail.com) or call/text (619) 909-3194.

### Street Evangelization Brings Gospel to Public Square

St. Paul Street Evangelization is a grassroots, nonprofit organization dedicated to taking the Gospel message to the streets.

Participants in the ministry do this in a non-confrontational way, allowing the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of those who witness their public Catholic presence.

For more information or to get involved, visit [streetevangelization.com](http://streetevangelization.com), call (619) 515-3267 or email [scb@procopio.com](mailto:scb@procopio.com).

### Priest Assignments

The following assignments have been announced by the Office of the Cardinal, effective July 1:

**Father Hilario Flores López, Sch.P.**, will serve as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Calexico.

**Father Carlos Rojas Páez, Sch.P.**, will serve as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Calexico.



**PIECE OF CAKE:** Father Jim Boyd slices a cake during his ordination anniversary celebration June 8 at a meeting of the Knights of Columbus’ Bishop Charles F. Buddy Assembly No. 2122.

## San Diego Catholics Celebrate Father Boyd

The Catholic community in San Diego demonstrated its appreciation for Father Jim Boyd as the priest celebrated his 87th birthday and the 60th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

Father Boyd was born and ordained on June 1, both in Brooklyn. With his bishop’s permission, he relocated to San Diego in 1997 and, since 2003, has served as chaplain of the Stella Maris Seafarer’s Center, which provides pastoral care to those who make a living on the sea.

On June 4, the English-speaking Engaged Encounter community organized a celebration for Father Boyd at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Mission Hills. In attendance were hundreds of people from the many marriage-related ministries that he actively supports, including both the English- and Spanish-speaking Marriage Encounter, Engaged Encounter and Retrouvaille communities, as well as members of Holy Family Parish, where he has been helping out recently.

Engaged Encounter is an organization that prepares couples for marriage, Marriage Encounter is for couples seeking to strengthen marriages, and Retrouvaille works to heal deeply troubled marriages.

John Prust, director of the diocesan Office for Family Life and Spirituality, described Father Boyd as an “incredible servant of God.”

“There’s probably no priest in our diocese more devoted to supporting marriages and families,” he said, adding that some people call him “the Divorce Buster.”

On June 8, the fourth-degree Knights of Columbus of Bishop Charles F. Buddy Assembly No. 2122 had a cake and ice cream at their regularly scheduled meeting at Our Mother of Confidence Parish, where they recognized Father Boyd for his 60 years of ministry.

“Father Boyd gave us a brief history of his priesthood experiences, which was quite entertaining,” said Fred Hall, who serves as Faithful Navigator, or presiding officer, of the Bishop Buddy Assembly. “It was a wonderful talk, and we were glued to his every word.”

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**Pulido** *Continued from Page 10*

At the time of his appointment as auxiliary bishop of San Diego, he was serving as vicar for clergy and as vocations director for the Diocese of Yakima, as well as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick, Wash., which is home to about 2,300 registered families and a parochial school with about 300 students.

Bishop-elect Pulido shared with the Pastoral Center staff that, while his “first passion is the Lord, the Church, the people,” he is also an avid soccer fan — particularly for the Jalisco-based team Chivas. He recounted an incident when he had been watching a televised soccer championship game in his office and inadvertently startled his secretary with the shouting that she could hear coming from his office.

“Yeah,” he said understatedly, “I get really excited about soccer.”

Bishop-elect Pulido is currently wrapping up his assignments in the Diocese of Yakima and will be returning to San Diego in late August.

“I’m excited and, at the same time, I’m very nervous,” he said about beginning his new role as a bishop.

“I’m happy to be here in San Diego. ... I’m here to serve and to love,” he said, explaining that he sees himself as “a servant leader.”

Since news of his appointment has spread, he said he has received many emails and texts from friends asking if they can do anything to support him.

His answer is always the same: “The best thing you can do for me — just pray.”



**UNITY:** Bishop-elect Michael Pham wanted to bring the diocese’s cultures together to celebrate Pentecost. The resulting Mass has become an annual tradition. The sixth edition drew around 2,300 on May 27 at San Diego Miramar College.

**Pham** *Continued from Page 11*

all cultures together to celebrate Pentecost.”

The result was the Pentecost Mass for All Peoples, which drew about 1,500 people in 2018 for a multilingual Mass and festival of ethnic foods. The event has become an annual tradition, held virtually in 2020 and outdoors in 2021 in compliance with COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. This year, about 2,300 people attended the event, which was held at San Diego Miramar College.

The bishop-elect described the Pentecost Mass for All Peoples as “a foretaste of the banquet in Heaven, where all people of all cultures gather together at the altar ... united in Christ.”

Appropriately enough, it was on

the day of this year’s event that the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, phoned to inform him that Pope Francis had appointed him auxiliary bishop of San Diego.

“If this new opportunity is to serve the Church, then I’d be happy to take it,” he told the nuncio.

“I’ve known Father Michael since I came to San Diego eight years ago,” Cardinal McElroy said in a statement announcing the priest’s appointment. “His efforts at Good Shepherd have made a good parish great and his tireless ministry highlighting the rich cultural diversity of our diocese and our Church are powerful and moving.”

Narciso Guzmán said he was not surprised by the appointment. Shortly after beginning to work with him as a leader at the diocese’s Hispanic commission, he could see great things in

his future.

“I told him, ‘You’re going to be a bishop,’” he said. “And here we are waiting for the big day.”

He said that Bishop-elect Pham has had a great impact on the Hispanic community.

“He put (in) a lot of effort to learn Spanish,” he said. “And he motivated us to continue to work in our mission to unite the Hispanic parish community groups to the greater Church.”

Since late 2019, Bishop-elect Pham has served as vicar general of the diocese, initially sharing that role with Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan until the latter’s appointment as bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix in 2022.

Bishop-elect Pham said becoming vicar for ethnic and intercultural communities offered him the opportunity “to expand my horizon,” after having been primarily focused on a single parish community as a pastor. Then, becoming vicar general provided an even wider perspective, enabling him “to see the inner working of the front office of the Church.”

Following his consecration as a bishop on Sept. 28, it is expected that Bishop-elect Pham will step down as pastor of Good Shepherd Parish and take up residence at another parish.

“It’s been a great experience (working with Cardinal McElroy),” said Bishop-elect Pham, “and I like and continue to work with him ... along with Bishop Bejarano and (Bishop-elect) Pulido, to make our diocese become more and more vibrant.”



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# World Day for Grandparents Highlights Mercy

## Catholic News Service



VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has chosen “His mercy is from age to age,” a passage from the Gospel of Luke, as the theme for the 2023 celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

On the world day, which will be observed July 23, Pope Francis will celebrate Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica, according to the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

Catholic parishes, dioceses, movements and associations are asked to organize local celebrations as well, the dicastery said.

Pope Francis chose the theme — which is a line from Mary’s Magnificat in the first chapter of Luke — to tie the celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly to World Youth Day, which will be celebrated just over a week later, in Lisbon, Portugal, the dicastery said.

The theme for the youth gathering Aug. 1 to 6 is “Mary arose and went with haste” from Luke 1:39, the dicastery said, and it describes how Mary sets out to visit her elderly cousin Elizabeth and “proclaims, in the Magnificat, the strength of the alliance between young and old.”



**ENCOUNTER:** Pope Francis greeted Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann, an Australian Aboriginal elder, educator and artist, after his general audience May 31, 2023, in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. Looking on is Chiara Porro, Australian ambassador to the Holy See.

Pope Francis celebrated the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in 2021 and decreed that it be observed each year on the Sunday closest to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus’ grandparents.

God wants young people to bring joy to the hearts of the elderly and to learn from their experiences, Pope Francis said.

“Yet, above all, the Lord wants us not to abandon the elderly or to push

them to the margins of life, as tragically happens all too often in our time,” the 86-year-old pope wrote in his message for the Catholic Church’s celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

The Holy Spirit “blesses and accompanies every fruitful encounter between different generations: between grandparents and grandchildren, between young and old,” the pope wrote in his message.

“To better appreciate God’s way of acting, let us remember that our life is meant to be lived to the full, and that our greatest hopes and dreams are not achieved instantly but through a process of growth and maturation, in dialogue and in relationship with others,” he wrote.

“Those who focus only on the here and now, on money and possessions, on ‘having it all now,’ are blind to the way God works,” the pope said. “His loving plan spans past, present and future; it embraces and connects the generations.”

God calls on everyone each day to look to the future and “keep pressing forward,” he wrote.

For young people, that means being able to “break free from the fleeting present in which virtual reality can entrap us, preventing us from doing something productive,” he wrote. “For the elderly, it means not dwelling on the loss of physical strength and thinking with regret about missed opportunities” and dwelling on the past.

Pope Francis invited the faithful to “make a concrete gesture that would include grandparents and the elderly” and to honor them.”

Pastoral tools useful in the preparation of the world day were available on the Vatican website, [laityfamilylife.va](http://laityfamilylife.va).





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# Perspective: Embrace New 'Jobs' in Retirement

By Father Charles "Chuck" Fuld



Sounds simple enough: "I'm going to retire in a few months (or years) and this is what it will be like ..." And, lo and behold, when that time comes you find that life has changed, or what you are retiring from is just a small part of the big picture you then face.

As a widower priest (with three grown children), I retired from editing *The Southern Cross* newspaper some three years ago. The hail and farewell was a big event with our then Bishop Robert W. McElroy, brother priests, staff and family members gathered.

I certainly didn't consider it a "shutdown" for me, but I could not have imagined what my life would really be like.

My retirement has been more like the "roll-over" we experience over and over again in life: I became a parent, then a grandparent, then a great-grandparent. Each of those milestones came with its own "job description," if you will, which I naturally rolled into.

I worked at a certain job, and now find myself helping out in all kinds of ways I could hardly squeeze in before.

Now, I celebrate Mass regularly at a nearby church, trying my best to fill special needs as they arise. This



**FAMILY TIME:** After retiring, Father "Chuck" Fuld has more time to spend with his three children, left to right, Linda, Michael and Terri.

church (St. Gabriel in Poway) has a ministry called Coping with Cancer to which I have committed myself. I now find myself more involved with the Knights of Columbus. Also, because of my passion for writing, I have taken on what you might call a "ministry of letter-writing," sending cards and notes to a long list of parishioners, brother priests and friends, some of whom had felt disconnected.

Like me, retirees can help out in their church in ways that they could not when they were working full time: They can become part of the liturgy

as an usher, a reader, an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, or even a sacristan. And some of you guys might even decide to become a deacon — or become another "widower priest."

Sure, you can retire from everything, I suppose, but that's not what God made us to do. And what would that amount to: eating and sleeping and going in circles all day?

As we closed this Easter season with the Sundays of Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi, we saw the important role each of us

needs to take to meet the challenges God has set in front of us.

My advice to retirees or those planning to retire soon: Take a holiday or two upon leaving your job, but there's a lot more that you can do to fulfill that commandment Jesus gave us: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Maybe it's more a matter of resetting your retirement expectations. That's what I learned to do, and I'm having a heck of time keeping up with mine! I love my new life and the warm response I get from my family and all the folks around me.



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**PASSIONATE:** Sister Rose Pacatte, FSP, embraces all forms of media to evangelize.

## Multi-Media 'Apostle' Has San Diego Roots

By Aida Bustos



BALTIMORE — Perhaps the coolest speaker at the Catholic Media Conference, held June 6 to 9 in Baltimore, was a 71-year-old nun who opened her keynote address with a joke she got from ChatGPT.

Sister Rose Pacatte, FSP, tackled the topic "Multi-Media Ministries in the Metaverse." Amid her entertaining commentary laced with references to popular films and TV shows, she delivered a serious message to Catholic communicators: Media literacy is essential in today's world.

"Sister Rose," as she is known, currently serves in Rome but fondly considers San Diego home.

Sister Rose, who marks 56 years in the Daughters of St. Paul congregation

in August, does not speak of retiring.

She plans to continue her order's mission to evangelize using the most modern means of communication. A core goal for these "media apostles" is to teach people how to become critical thinkers, particularly of the media they consume.

The sisters operate the Pauline Center for Media Studies in Culver City, which Sister Rose founded. She temporarily lives in Rome, where she still writes, teaches and makes presentations.

She is an award-winning author of books and articles on film and media literacy, and writes a movie blog on *Patheos*.

### 'San Diego Is My Home'

Sitting in the café where the conference was held, she joyfully shared the details of her life in San Diego. She's a natural journalist, punctuating her

story with precise dates and locations, and lots of anecdotes.

Her father was in the Navy and was transferred to San Diego from Norfolk, Va., in 1952. The family, including 6-month-old Rose and a brother, moved in with her grandparents in Encanto, on 63rd and Imperial Avenue. When she was 4 years old, the family moved to Ramona for a year while a house was built for them behind her grandparents' home.

Over the years, the family grew — another two brothers and four sisters would be born. She attended Encanto Elementary School and then O'Farrell Middle School.

The family attended St. Rita's Church, where all the kids were baptized and learned catechism, and where Rose and some of her siblings received First Communion and confirmation.

She considers St. Rita's "still my home parish."

While growing up, she would talk to her mother about becoming a nun. Movies and books about religious women "really impressed me," she said.

She remembers being at the Del Mar Fair as a Girl Scout on July 4, 1967, like it was yesterday.

"I was looking at the Ferris wheel going round and round, and thought, 'What about tomorrow? And tomorrow?' Everything changes. But God is constant."

She felt "such a strong pull toward God," she said, and went home that day and told her mother that she wanted to become a nun. She was 15 and didn't want to wait until she was an adult to enter religious life. It was 1967, and she was a sophomore at Morse High School.

Her mother took her to visit religious communities, first to the Benedictines, who lived at a convent in Clairemont (now the diocese's Pastoral Center). Then, they visited the Daughters of St. Paul, who ran Pauline Books and Media on Balboa Avenue. (The store closed in May of 2016 after 60 years.)

"Right away I liked the sisters," she recalled.

Her pastor, Msgr. John Gallagher, at St. Rita's, thought she was too young to enter vocational life but agreed to recommend her.

She moved to Boston to attend a high school run by the order, beginning a vocational journey that over five decades has taken her to provincial leadership positions across

the United States, Guam, Singapore, Africa and Europe.

### Deeper Dive Into Media

At the Catholic Media Conference around 1990, she heard about the need to educate others in media literacy.

"It just resonated with me, this idea of not just making media but understanding it and being able to critique it," she recalled. "All the messaging in the world, how do we navigate that as people of faith and make wise choices?"

That inspiration led Sister Rose to found in 1995 the Pauline Center for Media Studies in Boston, which focused on media literacy. The center moved to Culver City in 2002. She would spend the next 20 years as director, stepping down in 2017.

The center first trained fellow sisters in media literacy concepts and then moved on to training catechists, offering certificates in media literacy.

Last year, as Sister Rose was approaching the 50th anniversary of professing her vows, she wanted a different perspective for a year but "not a sabbatical."

Her superior quickly decided that Sister Rose should go to Rome. Her initial plan was to stay long enough to cover the Synod of Bishops planned for October of 2023. Then Pope Francis added another year, which has extended her stay.

At this point, she's been in Rome for 10 months, continuing her online teaching, traveling for speaking engagements, and working on a project for her order.

Also on her agenda: Getting a knee replacement.

"Rome is a place where you need good legs."

What keeps her going?

"I love our mission of evangelization using the most modern means of communication, of sharing Christ's love to everyone without distinction, as St. Paul would do if he were alive today."

"It's love and a passion for media, cinema, social media — all forms — to create community, and collaborate to do good in the world."

Follow Sister Rose:  
Facebook: @RosePacatte  
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**MEMORIES:** Rose Pacatte in fourth grade at Encanto Elementary School; as a member of the Daughters of St. Paul Provincialate, in Boston, Mass., June 25, 1972; Rose as a member of the Morse High School swim team during sophomore year in 1967 (fourth from left in front row); as Sister Rose meeting Pope St. John Paul II on Sept. 21, 1981, at Castel Gandolfo in Rome.



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