

## 2 Pastoral Letter

### Clergy

Fr. Miguel Hernandez, Pastor  
Fr. Martin Bui, Parochial Vicar  
Fr. Don Romito, Retired Priest  
Fr. Eamon O'Gorman, Retired Priest  
Deacon Ken Kleckner  
Deacon Jim Merle  
Deacon Jorge Ramirez  
Deacon Victor Valenzuela

### Pastoral Staff

Amanda Hawley, School Principal  
Michael Spillman, Dir. of Business Admin  
Summer Pongetti, Liturgy/Adult Faith  
Jerry Cates, Plant Manager  
Henrietta Moreno, Administrative Asst.  
Andrea Rodriguez, Receptionist  
Eric Brunter, Youth Ministry  
Katherine Gonzalez, Youth Ministry  
Liliana Duran, Children's Faith Formation  
Paul Nguyen, Music Ministry

### Baptisms

Please complete the online registration form at [www.stjosephplacentia.org/baptism](http://www.stjosephplacentia.org/baptism) and you will be contacted by a Deacon.

### Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Parish Center office.

### Funerals

Please call the Parish Center office.

### Marriages

Please call the Parish Center office at least six months in advance.

What am I carrying with me?

This past week we saw a record number of people traveling. It has been many months since we felt free to move about the community and the country in such an open and unrestricted way. Airports were jammed packed, freeways were clogged, trains were busy, and neighborhoods were filled with people gathered together setting aside, at least for the day, their concerns about the pandemic. It was a good feeling.

Stop for a moment and think about what you took with you as you made your way to your neighbors or traveled away from your home. Some took food to share at picnics for that one day, some took suitcases filled with clothing to ensure they were properly dressed for each day they were gone. We all made sure to have money to buy what we might have forgotten, and we took our phones allowing us to stay connected.

But did these things keep us connected as we might have wanted to be. Or were these things distractions keeping us focused on them rather than on those we wished to be with.

Jesus called his disciples, those whom he wanted to be with, to gather with him before sending them out to spread the good news. He could have instructed them to be well prepared with food, clothing, and money for the journey. But Jesus knew those things would become distractions to the mission that he was sending them on. Do I have enough clothing, is it clean, do I have money to buy food and lodging? By instructing His disciples to leave these distractions behind all attention was then on the mission, the Good News, the disciples had been charged with sharing.

How often do we hang on to unimportant items that do little to enhance our relationships? How often are these attachments our focus rather than on a person or relationship.

We come to church on Sunday to celebrate with our community the Eucharist. We listen to the message in the Gospel, we receive Christ in the Eucharist and leave church emboldened to carry out Jesus' command to go forth and teach all nations in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. But then our phone rings, we need gas in the car, we are hungry and look for a place to eat. All necessary parts of our lives. How do we keep the message of today's Gospel the focus of our day?

What are you carrying around that distracts you from Jesus' message? Can you set it down, walk away from it, pay attention to those who are most important in your life? Jesus sends each of us out asking not that I should have all my physical needs taken care of on this journey, but rather to be present to those I encounter.

Do you have what you need for this journey?

Blessings,

Deacon Ken