

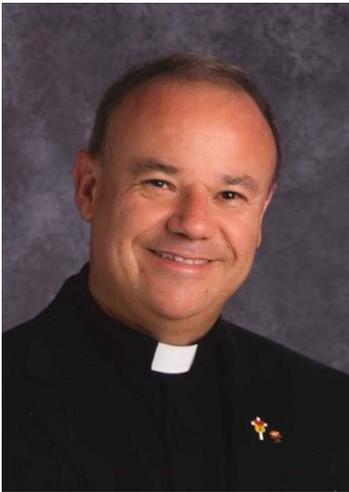


NEWS RELEASE

Pope Francis Announces Appointment of Fr. Ramon Bejarano as Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of San Diego

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We are pleased to announce that Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Ramon Bejarano, pastor of the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Stockton, to be an auxiliary bishop of San Diego, CA.

Fr. Bejarano, now Bishop-elect Bejarano, becomes the first priest ordained for the Diocese of Stockton to become bishop. He was ordained for our diocese by the Most Rev. Donald Montrose in 1998 and went on to be the founding pastor of Holy Family parish in Modesto as well as pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto. He served also as parochial vicar in the parishes of St. George in Stockton and Sacred Heart in Turlock.

Bishop Myron J. Cotta said of the pope's decision to elevate Fr. Bejarano: "It is with great pride and joy – but also some sadness – that we see Fr. Bejarano achieve this tremendous honor. Our Holy Father has chosen very wisely in selecting this outstanding priest, a loving shepherd of God's People and a friend to many in our diocese and community. He goes to this holy post with our gratitude, our love and our prayers."

Bishop-elect Bejarano was born in Seagraves, Texas, on July 17, 1969, the son of José Bejarano and María Elena Silva. He spent his early life in Aldama, Chihuahua, México. He felt the call to become a priest at an early age. The family moved in the late 1980s to Tracy, where he worked in the fields and in hotel maintenance. It was during this time that he requested to be accepted in the Diocese of Stockton to study for the priesthood. He received his college degree from the Diocesan Seminary of Tijuana and completed his theological studies at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon.

Bejarano has served as chaplain to the Migrant Ministry and the Spanish Catholic Radio. He also served as a member of the Presbyteral Council, the Diaconate Board, the Preparatory Commission for the Diocesan Synod of 2005, and the College of Consultors.

In his new ministry as auxiliary bishop of San Diego, Fr. Bejarano will assist the current diocesan bishop of San Diego, Bishop Robert McElroy.

He will be consecrated a bishop in the Diocese of San Diego on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.