

**I am the living bread that came
down from heaven, says the
Lord; whoever eats this bread
will live forever.**

JOHN 6:51



Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From Bishop Felipe Pulido

Date: June 10-11, 2023

Week Behind

Dear Parishioners,

The last two weeks I have been overwhelmed by emotions and interviews and presentations. I am honored and humbled and without words by the announcement that the Holy Father is sending me to the Diocese of San Diego as one of its auxiliary bishops. When the Apostolic Nuncio called me on Pentecost Sunday to give me the news, I responded with shocked disbelief. To tell you the truth, I did not know what to say or do. The Nuncio said to me, “Just say yes and do not be afraid.” Those words gave me peace, so I said “Yes” - once again.

I am experiencing so many emotions right now, but I am happy. I know the responsibilities will be many, but I trust that the Holy Spirit will guide me and be with me. Thank you for everything.

Please keep me in your prayers. Below is the official announcement.

Pope Francis Names New Auxiliary Bishops of San Diego

June 6, 2023

WASHINGTON - Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Michael Pham and Rev. Felipe Pulido as auxiliary bishops of San Diego. Bishop-elect Pham is a priest of the Diocese of San Diego and currently serves as Vicar General of the Diocese of San Diego and pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in San Diego. Bishop-elect Pulido is a priest of the Diocese of Yakima and currently serves as Vicar for Clergy and Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Yakima and as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick, Washington. The appointments were publicized in Washington, D.C. on June 6, 2023, by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

Father Pham was born January 27, 1967, in Da Nang, Vietnam. He graduated from San Diego University with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in aeronautical engineering. He attended Saint Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, California, and, in 2020, completed a Licentiate in Sacred Theology. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of San Diego on June 25, 1999.

Bishop-elect Pham's assignments after ordination include: parochial vicar at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish in Oceanside (1999-2001); diocesan Vocation Director (2001-2004); pastor of Holy Family Parish in San Diego (2004-2014); and pastor of St. Therese Parish in San Diego (2014-2016). In 2016, he was named pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in San Diego, where he currently serves. He has been Episcopal Vicar for ethnic and intercultural communities since 2017 and, since 2018, he has served as Vicar General of the Diocese of San Diego. Bishop-elect Pham is a native speaker of Vietnamese, and he also speaks English and Spanish.

Father Pulido was born January 13, 1970, in Dos Aguas, Michoacán, Mexico. He began his priestly formation at Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Oregon (1994-1998) from which he graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1998. He continued his education at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, receiving a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology with high honors at the Angelicum in Rome in 2000. He studied at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family in Rome from 2001 to 2002. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Yakima on June 28, 2002.

Bishop-elect Pulido's assignments after ordination include: parochial vicar at Holy Family Parish in Yakima (2002-2003) and at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Moses Lake (2003-2006); and pastor of Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Leavenworth (2006-2008). In 2008, he was named pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Moses Lake and of Queen of All Saints Parish in Warden. He served the two parishes concurrently until 2012. In 2011, he was appointed to serve the Diocese of Yakima as Vicar for Clergy and Director of Vocations, while continuing his service as pastor of two parishes. In 2012, he was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Yakima where he served until 2020. Since 2020, Father Pulido has been pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick, in addition to continuing in his roles as diocesan Vicar for Clergy and Director of Vocations. Bishop-elect Pulido is a native speaker of Spanish and he also speaks English.

The Diocese of San Diego is comprised of 8,852 square miles in the State of California. It has a total population of 3,478,336 people of whom 1,391,334 are Catholic.

Week Ahead

You probably have many questions. Especially you are wondering who is coming to be the new pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick. Please know that Bishop Tyson and the Personnel Board of the Diocese of Yakima are working on that. I am hoping that by next week you will know. Please be patient. The announcement of bishops-elect for San Diego happened so fast! We are still figuring out new assignments in our diocese. In the meantime, Father Cesar Izquierdo is still the parochial vicar and Father Riccardo Keolker is still with us. Father John Vogl is still helping with Tuesday Masses and confessions on Saturday. Again, I am hoping that by next week I will be able to tell you the name of your new pastor.

Many blessings!

Father Felipe

And please keep Saint Joseph parish in Kennewick and myself in your prayers during these transitions.