



DIOCESE OF MONTEREY

Pastoral Office

831-373-4345
FAX 831-373-1175

Diocese@dioceseofmonterey.org
www.dioceseofmonterey.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Diocese of Monterey

FROM: +Most Reverend Gerald E. Wilkerson
Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Monterey ^{+GEW}

DATE: August 1, 2018

As Apostolic Administrator I thought it might be helpful for me to introduce myself. I was born in Des Moines, Iowa but my family moved to Long Beach, California when I was two years old. I have four siblings, two brothers and two sisters, and I attended St. Anthony Elementary and High School in Long Beach. After graduating from high school I entered the seminary system for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, studying first at Queen of Angels Seminary in San Fernando and then at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo. I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese on May 1, 1965 by Cardinal James McIntyre at the old St. Vibiana Cathedral in Los Angeles. I had parish assignments in La Habra, central Los Angeles and Manhattan Beach before being named Administrator and then Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Encino.

After fifteen years in Encino I was named Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles and ordained a bishop by Cardinal Roger Mahony on January 21, 1998. I oversaw the San Fernando Pastoral Region of the Archdiocese for nearly twenty years, until my retirement in 2016.

Bishop Rich Garcia and I have been good friends since we were both ordained bishops just a week apart in 1998. We served together for many years as members of the Executive Committee of the California Catholic Conference of Bishops. I join you in sharing our loss of a good friend and wonderful loving and caring Bishop.

Now I have been asked to journey with you. Our journey begins in shock and sadness as we mourn the loss of Bishop Rich. I cannot, and will not, try to take his place. But I think that we honor him by continuing his vision and his pastoral ministry here in the Diocese of Monterey. As we journey together we must continue to build on the foundation laid by Bishop Ryan and Bishop Garcia. The naming of a new bishop will take a number of months, during which time we need to unite and continue to build the kingdom of God here in the Diocese of Monterey. I am particularly amazed at the fertile fields of the Diocese, and I think that our faith, love and unity should be as abundant as the food and drink that comes from the work of many hands.

I do ask your patience with me while I get up to speed on the special characteristics of your beloved Diocese. I do hope to visit all the parishes, institutions and areas of the Diocese in due time. Although I am completing some commitments in Los Angeles, you may reach me through the Diocesan Offices. I hope to take up full residence here the week of August 20.

Finally, I ask for your prayers for me as I begin this new ministry among you. And let us also join in prayer for the choosing and coming of a new Bishop to this extraordinary vineyard of the Lord's Church.