

**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF  
THE MOST REVEREND RAMON BEJARANO  
AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO,  
CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATA, SAN DIEGO, JULY 14, 2020**

Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop Gomez, Your Excellency Bishop McElroy, Your Excellencies Bishop Brom and Bishop Dolan, Your Excellency Auxiliary Bishop-elect Bejarano, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of San Diego, Dear Friends:

As the personal and official representative of His Holiness Pope Francis in the United States of America, I am truly pleased to be with you in this beautiful portion of the Lord's flock as Reverend Father Ramon Bejarano, born in Texas, raised in Mexico, a worker in the San Joaquin Valley, a priest of the Diocese of Stockton, is ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and begins his ministry as Auxiliary Bishop and close collaborator to Bishop McElroy.

Your Excellency, as you begin your episcopal ministry in San Diego, which has become a crossroads for many peoples and cultures, your zeal for your mission and for pastoral ministry, especially among Spanish-speakers, must be great to overcome the many challenges to evangelization. Knowing how devoted you are to the Holy Virgin of Guadalupe; I place before you the words of the Aparecida document:

**“Mary is the great missionary, the continuer of her Son’s mission, who forms missionaries. As she gave birth to the Savior of the world, she brought the Gospel to our Americas. In the Guadalupe event, together with the humble Juan Diego, she presided over Pentecost, which opened us to the gifts of the Spirit. Since then, countless communities have found in her the closest inspiration for learning how to be disciples and missionaries of Jesus. We joyfully note that she has become part of the journey of each of our peoples, deeply entering into the fabric of their history and taking on the noblest and most significant features of the people in them.”** (V CONFERENCIA GENERAL DEL EPISCOPADO LATINOAMERICANO Y DEL CARIBE, *DOCUMENTO CONCLUSIVO*, CELAM, Aparecida 2007, n. 269)

Under her protection and by her intercession, may you open to others the gifts of the Holy Spirit, helping them as disciples to journey toward their heavenly homeland.

Without wishing to embarrass you, I know well the wonderful priestly qualities you have demonstrated over the years of your priestly life among the People of God in Stockton, who will surely miss you. I am confident that you will now share your gifts – the gifts of the Spirit – with the Church in San Diego. Assuring you of our prayers, we are truly confident that you will be a blessing for this family of faith and for the community at large.

At this time, it is with great pleasure that I read for you the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.