

**Rev. Rey Bersabal named Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Sacramento; will assume his role following his episcopal ordination on May 31<sup>st</sup>**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**4-20-24**

The Vatican Press Office today announced that His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Rey Bersabal, a priest of the Diocese of Sacramento, as auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Sacramento. He will take up his appointment on May 31, following his ordination as bishop in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

“I am grateful to His Holiness for giving me a faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus as an able co-worker in this favored part of His vineyard,” said the Most Rev. Jaime Soto, Bishop of Sacramento.

“Bishop-elect Rey came as an immigrant priest bringing the rich cultural heritage of the Filipino people. He became part of a presbyterate and people that is a global Catholic kaleidoscope of faith and charity radiating the historic credal customs from Portugal, Italy, Ireland, China, Poland, Africa and more.”

Bersabal, 59, the youngest of three children, grew up in a small town in Mindanao, Philippines. He attended both Catholic and public schools before entering the diocesan seminary of San Jose de Mindanao. He obtained his degree in Philosophy from Ateneo de Cagayan Xavier University. On April 29, 1991 he was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro. He came to the Diocese of Sacramento in 1999.

“I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to His Holiness Pope Francis and to Bishop Jaime Soto, for the recognition and trust bestowed upon me,” said Bersabal. “I am humbled to be chosen to serve God’s people in this capacity. I vow to uphold the responsibility to demonstrate Christ’s holiness to the people of the Diocese of Sacramento.”

Bersabal has served as a priest in the Diocese of Sacramento for 25 years. Since 2022, he has served as Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Sacramento. He is currently a member of the Priests Personnel Board as well as the Independent Review Board. His previous assignments in the diocese include pastor of St. Paul Parish, Sacramento, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Folsom, and pastor of St. James Parish, Davis. Bishop-elect Bersabal has also served in the capacity of Dean for both the Yolo and Gold Country Deaneries as well as a member of the diocesan Presbyteral Council.

As Auxiliary Bishop, Bersabal will also serve as Vicar General for the Diocese of Sacramento while remaining Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Bersabal speaks English, Tagalog, Visayan and Spanish.

The Diocese of Sacramento serves over 1,000,000 Catholics in 20 counties covering 42,000 square miles of Northern California from San Francisco Bay to Sacramento and the Oregon border. It includes more than 100 parishes, 42 elementary and secondary schools, and various social service and family support organizations throughout the region.