

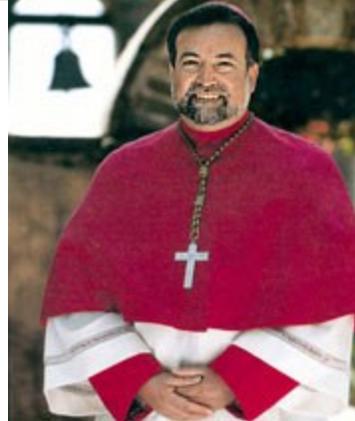
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## ECUMENISM

The attainment of union  
Is the concern of the whole Church,  
Faithful and shepherds alike.  
This concern extends to everyone,  
According to his or her talent,  
Whether it be exercised  
In his or her daily Christian life,  
Or in his or her  
Theological and historical research.  
This concern itself reveals  
Already to some extent  
The bond of brotherhood  
Between all Christians  
And it helps toward  
That full and perfect unity  
Which God in His kindness wills.

*Decree of the Second Vatican Council  
On Ecumenism,  
Unitatis Redintegratio*

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**Bishop Jaime Soto**

### **DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT**

**We, the People of God  
Of the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento,  
Guided by the Holy Spirit,  
Are called by Christ to proclaim  
The Good News of the Kingdom of God  
Through prayer, praise and sacraments  
And to witness the Gospel values  
Of Love, Justice, Forgiveness & Service  
To All.**

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## **DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO OFFICE OF ECUMENICAL & INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

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## ECUMENISM

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The restoration of unity among all Christians was one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council. Christ the Lord founded one Church. Many Christian communions profess to be followers of the Lord, but differ in mind and go their different ways, as if Christ Himself were divided. Such division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world, and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every nation. (Decree On Ecumenism, 1)

All Christians must recall that the night before Jesus died, He prayed : “that they may all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I in You”. (Jn17:21)

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## INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

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Inter-religious affairs refers to our relationship with all religious traditions other than Christians. “Interreligious dialogue does not merely aim at mutual understanding and friendly relations. It reaches a much deeper level, that of the spirit, where exchange and sharing consist in a mutual witness to one’s beliefs and a common exploration of one’s respective religious convictions.” (Pontifical Council For Inter-religious dialogue, dialogue and proclamation, 40)

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## ECUMENICAL & INTER-RELIGIOUS COMMISSION

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The 1993 Directory For Ecumenism instructs the Bishops to establish a body of representatives who will assist the Diocese in the important ministry of Ecumenism. In keeping with this instruction, the Bishop of Sacramento has established the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, and the Diocesan Ecumenical & Inter-religious Commission.

### The **Ecumenical & Inter-religious Commission** is:

- ◆ A resource to the Bishop of Sacramento in the on-going dialogue between the Diocese and other Christian churches, and the Diocese and non-Christian religions.
- ◆ A resource to the various offices of the Diocese in all things pertaining to ecumenism and interreligious affairs.
- ◆ A resource to the parishes of the Diocese in their ecumenical and inter-religious outreach to others.

A catalyst to bring people of all faiths together, working for the good of mankind, in keeping with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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## ECUMENICAL & INTER-RELIGIOUS COMMISSION 2013

Rev. Michael F. Kiernan  
Diocesan Ecumenical Officer

Ms. Beatrice Menchaca (Secretary)

Ms. Valerie Barclay

Rev. Thomas Bonacci

Ms. Colleen Branagan

Mr. and Mrs. John and Barbara Burger

Mr. Joseph Chiravayalil

Ms. Betsy Ditter

Ms. Mary Ann Ellis-Jammal

Mr. Jon B. Fish

Deacon David Ford

Deacon Dennis Gorsuch

Rev. Jeff Henry

Ms. Sandra Holland

Deacon Barry Johnson

Msgr. James Kidder

Deacon Lawrence Klemecki

Deacon Marinko Kraljevich

Rev. Sylvester Kwiatkowski

Rev. Ken Laverone

Rev. Nabil Mouannes

Rev. James Narithookil

Deacon Joe O'Donnell

Rev. Michael O'Reilly

Rev. Bong Rojas

Ms. Alicia Ross

Mr. Uli Schmitt

Deacon Joe Symkowick