



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 14, 2017

Dear Co-Workers in the Lord:

May the peace and mercy of the Lord Jesus reign in your hearts.

After consultation with my co-workers at the Pastoral Center, I have decided to split the Department of Evangelization & Catechesis (DEC) into two new offices, the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and the Office of Family and Faith Formation. The process of this transition has already begun and is set to be completed by the Spring of 2018.

Over the past five years, I have asked the DEC to take on many new pastoral initiatives, nearly doubling the size and scope of the department. It is important that all these programs and initiatives invigorate the work of parishes and schools in the Diocese. This new structure will ensure that.

Youth & young adult ministry is a growing pastoral concern on the minds and hearts of most Catholics today. More resources are being directed to youth. I anticipate expanding the outreach to the young Church. So, in keeping with the mandate from Diocesan Synod (2004), the Diocesan Strategic Plan (2012), and in the spirit of the upcoming World Synod of Bishops on “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment” (October 2018), I have asked Kevin Staszko to direct the new Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. Kevin has ably managed the expansion of DEC. I now want him to dedicate his attention to this new challenge.

A national search will commence immediately to hire a new director for the new Office of Family and Faith Formation. The formation of the laity at all levels, the support of marriage and family life, and the North State Revival effort are also essential pastoral priorities. The success of both new offices will depend on effective cooperation with each other, parish teams and other Diocesan offices so that working together with the one mind of Christ, the Catholic Church will be a hopeful sign and instrument of God’s mercy in Northern California.

Please join me in asking for the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary so that this new effort may always be guided by the wisdom of her Son, Jesus.

Respectfully,

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento