

To: The Catholic Herald Magazine
From: Office of the Bishop
Re: Official Column for Catholic Herald (March/April Issue)
Date: January 16, 2026

“Official”

Bishop Jaime Soto has made the following canonical appointments:

PRIESTS

Effective October 1, 2025

Rev. Francisco **Velazquez**, previously Parochial Administrator *pro-tem* of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carmichael has been granted permission to retire.

Effective October 20 – November 3, 2025

Rev. Alfredo **Tamayo**, retired priest in the Diocese of Sacramento, has been appointed Priest-in-Charge *pro-tem* of St. Joseph Parish, Redding.

Effective November 6 – 21, 2025

Rev. Raj R. **Derivera**, while remaining Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Anderson, has been appointed Priest-in-Charge *pro-tem* of St. Joseph Parish, Redding.

Effective December 15, 2025

Rev. Carlos M. **Mestanza**, PES, having been present by his Superior, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Lawrence Parish, North Highlands.

Effective December 29, 2025

Rev. Joseph **Sebastian**, CMI, having returned to the Diocese of Sacramento, has been appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Theresa Parish, South Lake Tahoe.

Effective January 1, 2026

Rev. Apolonio **Catada**, Parochial Vicar of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Vallejo, has been appointed Parochial Administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish, Corning.

Rev. Giovanni B. **Gamas**, while remaining Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Folsom, has been elected to the Priest Personnel Board as the representative for the Southern Region Constituency.

Rev. Steven J. **Wood**, while remaining Parochial Administrator of St. Patrick Parish, Weaverville, has been elected to the Priest Personnel Board as the representative for the Northern Region Constituency

Rev. Ambrose **Ugwuegbu**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Sacramento, has been appointed Parochial Vicar *pro-tem* of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, Vallejo.

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Rev. Rodolfo **Llamas**, Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Sacramento, has been granted permission to retire.

Rev. Eric D. **Lofgren**, Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Redding, has been granted permission to retire.

Rev. Mathew **Rappu**, Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish, West Sacramento, has been granted permission to retire.

Rev. Miguel **Silva**, Pastor of St. Christopher Parish, Galt, has been granted permission to retire.

DEACONS

Effective December 2, 2025

Deacon Jack **Davault**, Deacon of Holy Spirit Parish, Fairfield, has been elected to the Deacon Personnel Board.

Deacon Raymond **Elias**, Deacon of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Fairfield, has been elected to the Deacon Personnel Board.

Deacon Paul **Friedrich**, Deacon of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Carmichael, has been elected to the Deacon Council.

Deacon Ray **Hemenway**, Deacon of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Redding, has been elected to the Deacon Council.

Deacon Juan **Moreno**, Deacon of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Vallejo, has been elected to the Deacon Council.

Deacon Rich **Valles**, Deacon of Sacred Heart Parish, Anderson, has been elected to the Deacon Personnel Board.

The following notice is also given:

Effective December 8, 2025

Rev. Jose M. **Estaniel**, MSP, previously Parochial Vicar of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Vallejo, has left the diocese

Effective January 1, 2026

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Rev. Carlo Paul G. **Tejano**, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Corning, has been placed on a Sabbatical Leave.

In Memoriam

Rev. Sean **O'Leary** entered eternal life on November 3, 2025, at the age of 88. Father O'Leary was ordained to Priesthood on June 18, 1961 and served the Diocese of Sacramento for 64 years.

Dcn. Richard **Koppes** entered eternal life on September 9, 2025, at the age of 79. Deacon Richard served the Diocese of Sacramento for over 26 years.



Uli Schmitt
Chancellor

