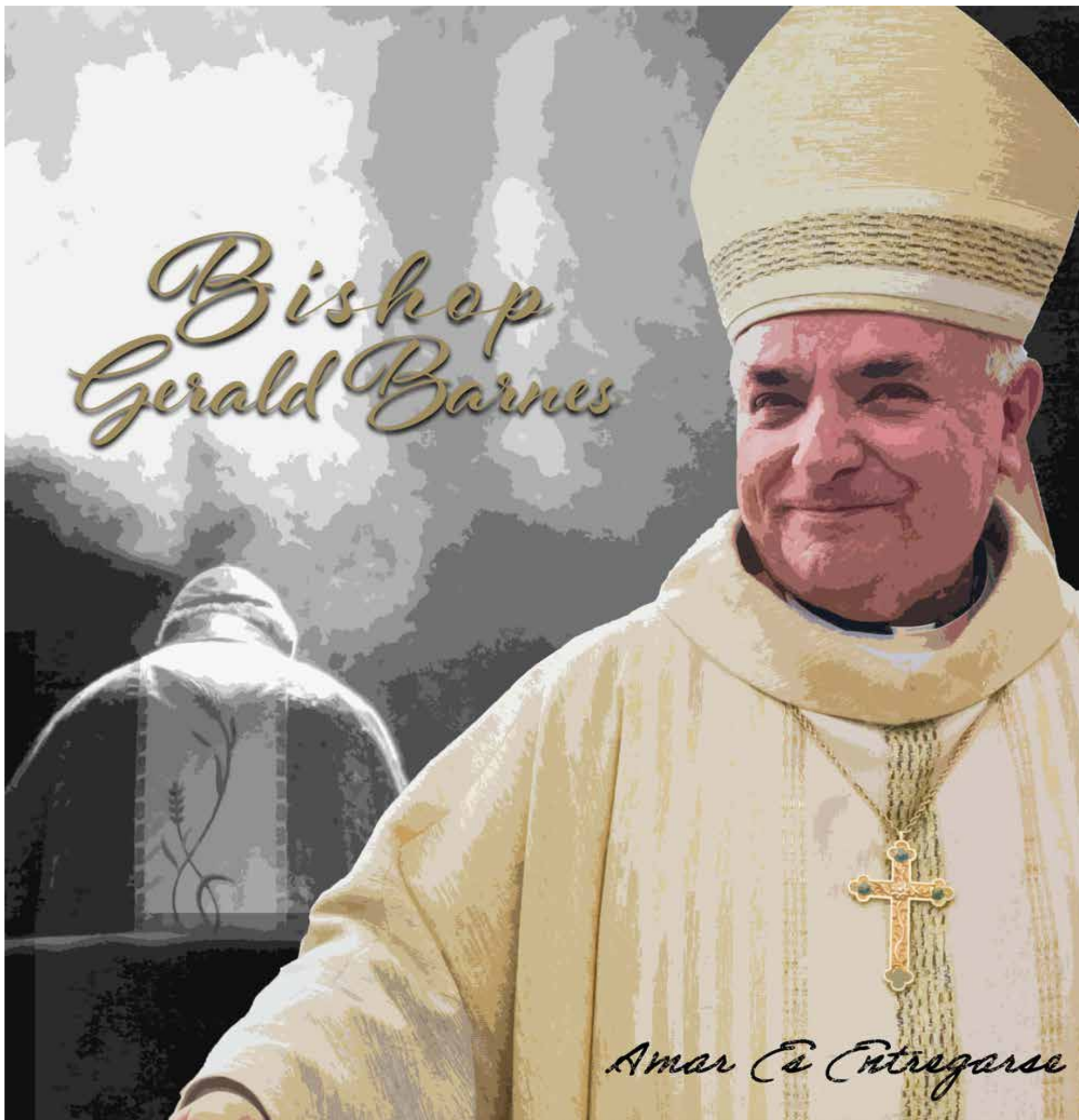


COMMEMORATIVE RETIREMENT ISSUE

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**byte**  
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*Bishop  
Gerald Barnes*

*Amar e Entregarse*

# Retirement brings gratitude, reflection and learning to just ‘be’

By Bishop Gerald R. Barnes

It has now been a year since I entered the retirement phase of my life. It began on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, and in a sense, I was innocent as to what retirement would mean for me. I had some ideas of what I wanted to do, visiting friends and family around the country, seeing some sights I had always wanted to visit.

But like with everyone else, those plans were hijacked by the pandemic. Like everyone else I had to adjust to the new reality. Yes, I had ideas of what I wanted to do, but the question of what retirement would mean for me was still not in the picture.

I also ran into mobility problems that took four months out of the year. I am fine now but those four months just added to the cross of the pandemic. You can see that the first year of retirement has kept me pretty much homebound.

I have remained active on committee work with the California Catholic Conference on the Laudato Si Standing Committee and on the Anti Racism Task Force. Both groups are so necessary in the times we live. I am grateful that I can participate in the discussions and proposals they present.

In all I do not know that I was ready to retire. My life as priest and bishop had been so active, even to the final days before the Holy Father accepted my letter of resignation as Diocesan Bishop because of age. I had questions: how would I continue to live a life of ministry? What kind of ministry is the Lord calling me to in the evening of my journey? But with the restrictions of the pandemic and my mobility issues, I had to learn to let go and just ‘be.’

Entering retirement was not as easy as some had told me. It was, or should I say, is, difficult to adjust. Some relatives and friends have shared with me that it took them about a year to accept a new lifestyle, to find a purpose in their retirement



years.

What has happened to me is that I discovered time to reflect: time to pray and listen to the Lord without having to squeeze time for reflection between preparing for meetings, attending meetings, reading reports, preparing talks, covering social and liturgical functions and all that engulfs the life of a bishop.

The discovery of time to reflect, pray and listen is the part of retirement that has been a true blessing and I believe, will take me to understand what retirement means for me. It has not been easy; there have been challenges, but in the end the Lord continues to free me to be the person He loves just being me. I have reviewed my life throughout this year with the help of looking through pictures, rereading letters, and reminiscing of the years gone by. I must say I am grateful for the vocation God has called me to with its blessings and challenges.

As I look to the Diocese, I am very

hopeful. I hear all that is going on in the Diocese and I see how Bishop Rojas has taken the helm and we are here to listen to him and have him listen to us. He, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will lead us in these next decades as a local church. I am delighted that the Synod is happening at this time under his leadership. It will help him set a direction for our entire diocese especially reaching out to those on the peripheries and those who have left the Church as well as those who have not felt welcomed. The Synod is a great process for us all and I encourage everyone to do their part to help us receive the grace that comes from this process. We are ready for it. The people of the Diocese, priests, religious, deacons and laity are ready to go forward to where God is calling us: *Siempre Adelante*.

I am so grateful to the people of the Diocese for their kindness to me throughout my years as their bishop. You are the wealth of this local church. Your commit-

ment, your desire to learn and be formed in the faith; your openness to be part of the diversity that God has blessed us with, your willingness to address the challenges that present themselves to us; your embracing of the core values of hospitality, reconciliation, faith sharing and collaboration are all signs of a vibrant church filled with the spirit of missionary disciples. You are the community of believers in Jesus the Christ, called to impact, family, neighborhood and society with the Gospel, so that people’s lives are filled with hope.

What more could we desire? God is with us. Believe in Him and believe in yourself, for you are His beloved. *Amar es entregarse*.

Blessings and affection to you all.

Bishop Emeritus Gerald R. Barnes served as the Bishop of San Bernardino from 1996-2020.



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Publisher .....Most Reverend Alberto Rojas  
 Editor ..... John Andrews  
 Managing Editor .....Anneliese Esparza  
 Translators.....Annette Chavez, Teresa Perez  
 Copy Editors.....Sr. Mary Frances Coleman, R.S.M.  
 Distribution.....Mailroom

For information call, email or write:

Inland Catholic Byte • 1201 E. Highland Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92404  
 (909) 475-5400 • letters@sbdiocese.org • www.icbyte.org

DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMUNICATIONS**  
 DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO

**Congratulations Bishop Barnes  
 on your retirement!**

Office of Media | Information Technology Services | Mailroom



*Papal Message from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio, on behalf of Pope Francis*

Through the kindness of Msgr. Gerard M. Lopez, I recently learned with great pleasure that the diocesan family of San Bernardino wishes to express its profound gratitude to Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes, on the first anniversary of his retirement.

As your diocesan family commemorates the generous service of Bishop Barnes, it is my special privilege to convey to you the warm greetings, heartfelt congratulations and spiritual closeness of His Holiness, Pope Francis.

During a recent meeting with bishops, priests, religious, seminarians and catechists, the Holy Father affirmed: "How great is the beauty of a humble Church, a Church that does not stand aloof from the world, viewing life with a detached gaze, but lives her life within the world. Living within the world means being willing to share and to understand people's problems, hopes and expectations. This will help us to escape from our self-absorption, for the center of the Church is not the Church! We need to become immersed in the real lives of people and ask ourselves. For me, three words come to mind ... Freedom, creativity, dialogue" (St. Martin Cathedral, Bratislava, Sept. 13, 2021).

Under the energetic guidance of Bishop Barnes, the diocesan family of San Bernardino has experienced a dynamic Christian life through which the Church has been a precious light. Care and concern for all of God's children have been promoted, especially for the most vulnerable, and the dignity of all



human life has been advanced.

I am sure that the good seed planted for 25 years by Bishop Barnes has already begun to bear fruit, and the diocesan family of San Bernardino will continue to love and serve the Lord following the example of their beloved Bishop Emeritus.

## PRAYER FOR BISHOP BARNES' RETIREMENT

*Good and loving God,*

*In your care for your people, you sent your beloved Son, Jesus, to lead us to walk on the path of salvation.*

*You graciously called Bishop Gerald Barnes to closely walk in the steps of Christ, your Son, and to be a faithful minister of the divine mysteries, as he cared for the spiritual and corporal needs of the people of the Diocese of San Bernardino.*

*With the assistance of the Holy Spirit, he has been a faithful servant in all his duties, helping your people to be of one heart and one spirit, in prayer and in daily life.*

*Look with kindness and blessing upon him who has contributed so much to this local church. Give him peace and the reassurance of your love, and open new ways for him to continue sharing his gifts for the benefit of your people.*

*May your love and the love of us all go with him. We praise you, God of love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*





# We are forever grateful

By Bishop Alberto Rojas

Dear friends, peace and wellbeing to you and to your families. As we close another tumultuous year, I hope the Christmas celebrations have been a joyful blessing to you. Most people are grateful for what they have received. I am especially grateful for the gift of Bishop Barnes in our Diocese for many years. We will continue to keep him in our prayers and wish him the best in his retirement life.

When I received that phone call from the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, telling me that Pope Francis had sent me to the Diocese of San Bernardino, I was terrified! I never thought I would have to leave Chicago.

A few minutes later, the next phone call I got was from Bishop Barnes, who asked me, "How are you doing?" I said, "I am terrified." And he told me, "Don't be afraid, you will be fine." Then he asked me to get in touch with John Andrews, our Vice Chancellor and Director of Communications.

My fears of facing the unknown started to fade away when I arrived in San Bernardino in the middle of February 2019. I was surprised by joy and gratitude as I found a solid foundation in place thanks to the leadership and pastoral care provided by Bishop Barnes for many years.



**Bishop Gerald Barnes (left) and Bishop Alberto Rojas (right)**

There is always room to grow, but the sense I get of the Diocese in my personal experience so far is that of a house built on solid rock, as we can read in the Gospel of Matthew 7:24. Yet we can say that the harvest is abundant, and the laborers are few. However, these few laborers work hard and are committed and dedicated to serving their flocks with compassion and love.

The priests, the religious sisters, the deacons and their wives, and many more men and women of goodwill work hard to

serve God in the people of our Diocese in different capacities. Bishop Barnes gave them a good example because he trusted and believed in Jesus Christ's message and mission that "Amar es entregarse" (Love is the total giving of oneself).

I have found that the Catholic people in our Diocese are faithful and committed to their faith communities; they are self-giving, hospitable, welcoming and willing to collaborate in helping each other. There is no doubt those are qualities that were

nurtured by Bishop Barnes in his 25 years as Ordinary Bishop.

When I first met Bishop Barnes, we were in Baltimore attending the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in 2012. He was the chair of the Hispanic Affairs Subcommittee, and I had just become a member of the subcommittee. There he invited me to be part of a group that was coordinating the youth and young adults in preparation for the Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic Ministry. At that time none of us knew I would be succeeding him here in San Bernardino, but his confidence in me, his love for the poor and marginalized, his concern for the immigrants and his pastoral leadership were evident qualities of a good shepherd.

Many thanks to you, Bishop Barnes, and may God give you all the blessings, and many years of a peaceful and joyful retired life with us. You are always in my prayers. Sisters and brothers, I invite you to please join me in keeping Bishop Barnes in our prayers, that the Lord in his love and mercy grant him a healthy and joyful retired life. Peace and blessings to you all.

---

Bishop Alberto Rojas is the Ordinary Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino.

MOST REVEREND KEVIN W. VANN, BISHOP OF ORANGE

AUXILIARY BISHOPS TIMOTHY FREYER AND THANH THAI NGUYEN

BISHOP EMERITUS TOD D. BROWN

AND THE FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF ORANGE

SEND WARM AND HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO

**BISHOP EMERITUS GERALD BARNES**

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of ORANGE





# With our heartfelt gratitude.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

(Romans 8:28)

Bishop Barnes – we celebrate the love, care and service you have provided to our community. Thank you for your unsurpassed devotion. We wish for you peace and wellness during this next chapter of your journey.



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# Bishop Barnes' family background informed journey as a person, priest and bishop

By Natalie Romano

A drunk man lies passed out on the sidewalk; kids mock him and throw stones, adults shake their heads and look away, but not the parents of a young Gerald Barnes. They did what others wouldn't dare, and consequently helped shape both the person and priest that Barnes would ultimately become.

"My father washed him as my mother made him a sandwich. At first I was a little bothered by it. He was so drunk. Then I was captivated by what they were doing," recalled Bishop Emeritus Gerald Barnes. "It was a formation. We saw a lot of that as kids. We learned how to treat people."

That teaching moment took place at the Barnes family store in East Los Angeles during the 1960s. George and Aurora Barnes opened the Red Front Market after moving there from Arizona when their son Gerald was one year old. Bishop Barnes says the store financially supported the family's seven children and also gave them a front row seat to the myriad social and economical challenges of the neighborhood. The family themselves lived just blocks away in a modest home where the six brothers shared one bedroom and the entire family shared one bathroom.

"It was hard to find a quiet place," said Bishop Barnes. "The house was always full, always busy. There were always people there who needed a place to stay. Our best friends were our siblings."

When not at home or school, the Barnes brood worked at the family store that sold groceries, sewing supplies and tools. Bishop Barnes jokes that his dad never had any employees, just lots of kids. While the store was the center of their family life, it was also the center of the neighborhood. Bishop Barnes says he heard his father being referred to as the "mayor," so to speak, in an area where many were illiterate or only spoke Spanish.

"I lived in L.A. My dad wasn't the mayor but that was the impression of the community," explained Bishop Barnes. "People came to the store for everything. We read their mail for them. We wrote letters for them ... My dad never made any money because he extended credit to anyone under the sun."

When the family wasn't in the store, they enjoyed picnics and baseball, even taking in an occasional Dodgers game. Then it was back to the store, even on holidays. That meant limited free time for the children.

Bishop Barnes, as the second oldest, had lots of responsibility at the store, and when not at the store, was in charge of younger siblings at home. They say he was a serious big brother who made them



**FAMILY OF FAITH** Growing up, Bishop Barnes' parents taught him to serve others and to value the Catholic faith. LEFT: A young Gerald Barnes (far right) sits with his father, George, and three of his siblings in 1952. CENTER: Aurora Barnes lifts her infant son, Gerald, in 1945. RIGHT: A young Gerald Barnes (center) poses with other altar servers in front of Our Lady of Soledad, East Los Angeles, in 1953.

kneel in the corner if they were naughty. Yet he also provided stability, carrying on family traditions when their parents were at work.

"He made us learn all the Christmas songs and all the versus, English and Latin," recalled fourth oldest sibling, Gary Barnes, with a laugh. "Then he would have us perform for our parents and our aunt and uncle."

Gene Barnes, the baby of the family, remembers his brother Gerald being the one to reassure him during the turbulent events of the 60s, including the Watts Riots and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The now 64-year-old flashes back to the television coverage of the presidential assassination in Dallas.

"I was trying to comprehend what was going on. He tried to explain it to me," said Gene Barnes. "You look at the things that stopped the world, and that was one of them, and I happened to be with him."

He says that kind of shepherding never stopped: the big brother then is the big brother now. In 2019, when two of their brothers died about a week apart, Bishop Barnes took charge in ways both practical and spiritual.

"It was too much to overcome, too much to endure at the time," Gene Barnes said with emotion. "All of us were hurting with losing our brothers and he kept us together."

That leadership role in the family was given to him, says Bishop Barnes. He mostly embraced it, acting dutifully but with occasional defiance.

"I didn't hesitate from challenging my parents," admitted Bishop Barnes.

"I would want to know why. I was what some people would think of as disrespectful, rebellious."

Yet that challenger was the one most drawn to the Church. Bishop Barnes served as an altar boy and on his own, would periodically pop into church to pray. He didn't go to Catholic school but received religious education from the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters who saw signs of his future vocation.

Gary Barnes reminisces how most of the siblings would drag themselves out of bed for Sunday morning Mass while his older brother was dressed and ready to go. Bishop Barnes says it all started with how his parents practiced their faith in simple but visible ways in the home.

"If you passed their room at night, you saw my dad in prayer ... My mother would invoke the saints. She knew every saint under the heavens. She knew their feast day," said Bishop Barnes. "That kind of religiosity was in the family and I bought into it. It just appealed to me."

He says like most kids, he played games with his siblings but also played Mass, always playing the role of the priest.

But his earliest memory was not so virtuous. One day when four-year-old Gerald was walking to school with his older brother, well, they never quite got there.

"My brother, George, was the one who gave my parents gray hairs. He said, 'let's not go to school.' So we played in the park on the slides and all that," admitted Bishop Barnes. "Oh my goodness, my first memory was ditching school!"

Not surprisingly, their truancy was eventually discovered and their mom

made them confess to their teachers.

A confession of another sort came years later when Bishop Barnes revealed he wanted to be priest. The then-high school student had dreamt of working at the United Nations or abroad at an embassy. Yet when talking with an educational counselor, he blurted out something else.

"I said, 'I think I want to be a priest,'" said Bishop Barnes. "It was the first time I voiced it."

From there, the future Bishop applied to seminary but was denied. He ended up going to college and becoming a high school civics teacher. Bishop Barnes says thoughts of the priesthood kept coming back. Finally, with the help of his parish priest, he was able to enter seminary in Missouri. While this time he got in, he later got kicked out, thanks to that part of him that wants to challenge.

"You didn't question the Church in those days, you didn't question authority, but I did," said Bishop Barnes. "They said, 'We think you have a vocation, but it's not with us.' It was very difficult."

Bishop Barnes says the road to priesthood may have been "full of detours" but he ended up at the right destination.

"I got closer to God and then I knew I really wanted to be a priest," said Bishop Barnes. "This is what He wanted me to do. I was ordained 15 months later for the Archdiocese of San Antonio."

Bishop Barnes says that even as a priest, he was still learning from his parents. He remembers driving with them near a homeless encampment, when a man



# LETTER OF GRATITUDE TO BISHOP EMERITUS GERALD BARNES ON HIS RETIREMENT

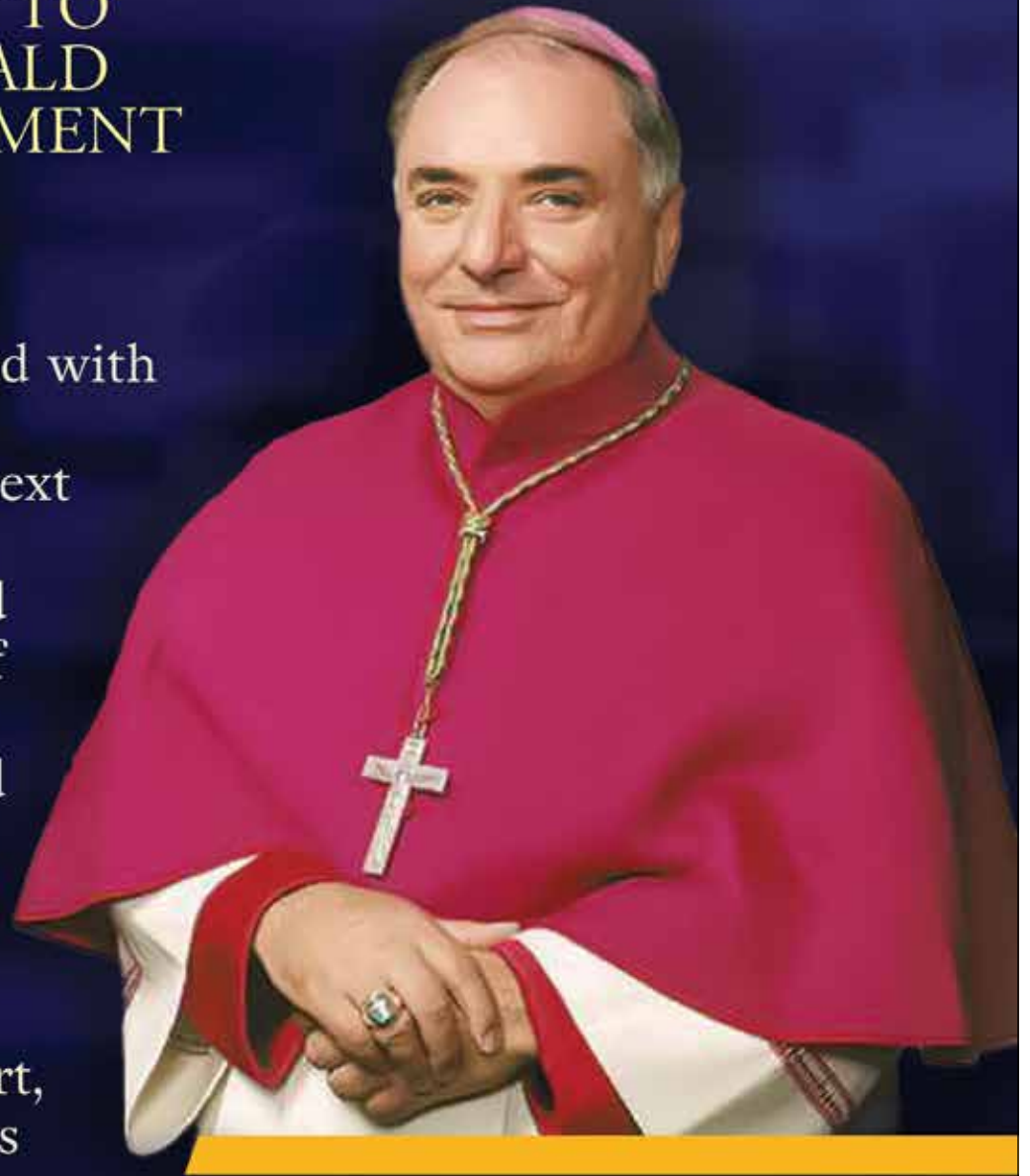
DEAR BISHOP BARNES,

You have served the Lord with gladness, tirelessly, faithfully and with great compassion for His flock.

Now, as the day dawns on the next chapter in your life, may God continue to richly bless you and watch over you, may the God of peace, through the intercession of the sacred hearts of Jesus and Mary, grant you joy and peace now and always.

You are in our prayers and in our hearts.

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Thanks be to God for you, Bishop Barnes, and for your long and fruitful episcopal ministry and leadership in the Diocese of San Bernardino.

I join Bishop Rojas, the priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful in joyful and grateful celebration on the anniversary of your retirement. AD MULTOS ANNOS!!! We entrust you to Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Bernardine of Siena, our Patron Saints.

*Auxiliary Bishop  
 Rutilio J.  
 del Riego*



**The Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs  
 and the V Encuentro Leadership  
 congratulates and prays for**

**Bishop Gerald R. Barnes**

on his retirement as Bishop of San Bernardino.  
 We thank him for his wonderful leadership over many years!



We at San Secondo d'Asti would like to thank God for the years of guidance Bishop Emeritus Gerald Barnes has brought us as we congratulate him on his retirement and celebrate his achievements. May God continue to guide you and bless you!

*"You are a Priest forever in the  
 order of Melchizedek."  
 Hebrews 7:17*



BISHOP BARNES,  
 MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS  
 YOU IN YOUR RETIREMENT.

CHRIST THE GOOD  
 SHEPHERD, ADELANTO



# Under Bishop Barnes, Diocese committed to welcoming, accompanying immigrants

By Anneliese Esparza  
Managing Editor

Welcoming and accompaniment. Those are the core principles behind the Diocese's commitment to minister to immigrants, which began under the leadership of Bishop Gerald Barnes.

Bishop Barnes' impact as an advocate for migrants was felt at the national level when he was elected chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Migration and Refugee Services in 2004. His role as chairman included lobbying of federal lawmakers with the goal of achieving comprehensive immigration reform.

In 2017, Bishop Barnes showed his support for migrants by joining five other U.S. bishops to participate in a Papal Mass along the Texas-Mexico border.

Speaking at the time, Bishop Barnes said he was reminded of the immigration crisis' impact on many families in the Diocese of San Bernardino. "It was very emotional," he said. "I felt like I was carrying a lot of our people who couldn't go."

Closer to home, Bishop Barnes showed his commitment by creating a full-time staff position to minister to immigrants, the Justice for Immigrants Campaign Coordinator. Further, in 2016, the Diocese and Catholic Charities opened the Santo Toribio Immigration Center in Palm Springs to give assistance to undocumented immigrants. During his remarks at the blessing of the new center, Bishop Barnes said that people of faith cannot succumb to a "culture of indifference" to the plight of migrants.

It was also under Bishop Barnes' tenure that Operation Bienvenida began, a designated ministry to those seeking political asylum in the U.S.

Operation Bienvenida, which means Operation Welcome, began in 2014, when the Diocese agreed to work with federal immigration officials to temporarily receive asylum seekers who were coming mostly from Central America. In July of 2014, St. Joseph Parish in Fontana, with assistance from the Diocese and Catholic Charities, provided nearly 50 migrants with food, clothing and shelter, and helped them make arrangements to travel to their relatives in the United States.

The ministry expanded to a much larger undertaking a few years later, when it operated from fall 2018 to fall 2019 in three locations in the Coachella Valley and San Bernardino: the Valley Missionary Program at Our Lady of Soledad Parish in Coachella, the Galilee Center in Mecca and Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral in San Bernardino. During this second itera-



**ONE HUMAN FAMILY** Bishop Barnes' Episcopacy has been marked by tireless advocacy for immigrant families. LEFT: Bishop Barnes visits with asylum seekers at St. Joseph Parish, Fontana in 2014. RIGHT: Bishop Barnes listens to six-year-old Sophie Cruz, who offered testimony at the 2016 Diocesan Migration Mass about the threat of being separated from her parents.

tion, Operation Bienvenida welcomed and assisted around 5,000 asylum seekers.

Bishop Barnes says that he saw this ministry to migrants as a crucial component to the Diocese's commitment to hospitality, which is one of its four core values.

"This Diocese, like our faith, believes in bienvenida, or welcoming. We welcome people. We accompany them, and in time, they will accompany somebody else. And Operation Bienvenida is an accompaniment of these brothers and sisters that are coming here, for whatever reason, and we don't ask those questions. We just let them know that they are a brother or sister," said Bishop Barnes.

As the grandson of immigrants, Bishop Barnes feels strongly about the importance of this ministry. "Throughout my life experience, I've seen that immigrants, or people of color, are treated differently. I've experienced that myself. And the Church at some times has given in to that, or it also failed at times to give the immigrant and/or the person of color their rightful place. That is totally against the Gospel. And that's why I'm passionate about it," said Bishop Barnes.

Deacon Luis Sanchez, who coordinated Operation Bienvenida in 2014 and co-coordinated it with Sister Hortensia Del Villar, SAC, in 2018-2019, said that Bishop Barnes showed his leadership and support for Operation Bienvenida in various ways, including visiting with the asylum seekers and encouraging department directors to send employees to help with the ministry if needed.

"There's one thing that I remember from Bishop Barnes that will stick with me

forever. We had a meeting, and the question was, what are we going to do if none of our parishes will take them? Where will we put them? And I remember Bishop Barnes, with no hesitation, said, 'Here [at the Diocesan Pastoral Center]. And then somebody said, but what about the classes? And Bishop Barnes said, 'We suspend them,' " said Deacon Sanchez, who is now Director of the Department of Ecclesial Services.

Operation Bienvenida brought together an assortment of volunteers, including laypeople, deacons, priests and religious, both local to the area and from other parts of the Diocese and of the country. Bishop Barnes saw that wide array of volunteers as inspiring. "In spite of some of the negative rhetoric and threats that were going around, I saw people coming out wanting

to help these people ... and it brought a lot of people together again," he said.

Today, Operation Bienvenida continues, but it has now shifted from being directly overseen by the Diocese to being a program within the Galilee Center, which is a nonprofit organization that provides food and clothing for disadvantaged families in the Coachella Valley. The Diocese remains very involved in assisting the ministry.

Bishop Barnes said that the reason many, including some Catholics, view immigrants with suspicion is because of "fear and ignorance."

"There's always this fear, this suspicion, of the person that is 'other,' because of language or race or physical features ... There's a tendency to see the foreigner as not equal to in abilities and understand-

See MIGRANTS | Page 41



**Bishop Barnes**  
Continued Blessings on your Retirement!  
*¡Bendiciones continuas en su jubilación!*  
SACRED HEART CHURCH – Palm Desert



# Leadership in abuse crisis made San Bernardino a national model

At the dawn of the 21st century the Diocese of San Bernardino faced challenges of growth, finances, social inequities and mounting secular influence.

But the issue that came to most occupy Bishop Gerald Barnes' time and attention was the national clergy sexual abuse crisis that erupted in 2002 following revelations of widespread abuse and cover-up in the Archdiocese of Boston. San Bernardino had a direct connection to the scandal in Paul Shanley, a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston, who had relocated to Palm Springs and committed abuse there.

"To come to that kind of awareness of how people had been hurt and victimized by the Church was extremely painful – and rightly so. It took a lot of energy and time on the part of many people to understand and address this," Bishop Barnes recalled of the crisis during a 2017 interview.

A Diocesan Review Board of lay and clergy representatives had already been formed in the 1990s to review and provide recommendations to the Bishop on the credibility of abuse allegations that were reported. Shortly after the crisis began, Bishop Barnes assembled a team of advisors that would meet weekly to discuss needed responses to the scandal from the standpoint of public communication, diocesan policy, education and legal requirements.

Out of this group came a 10-Point Plan in response to the abuse crisis that dealt with disclosure of past abuse allegations, outreach to victims, background checks of all diocesan ministers and intensive training in how to ensure a safe environment in all diocesan settings. A Victim's Assistance Coordinator position was created to provide pastoral care to victims as they came forward to the Diocese to report their abuse.

The local plan came as the Bishops of the United States were drafting and implementing the national Charter for the Pro-



**TIME OF CRISIS** Bishop Barnes convened a group of diocesan clergy, religious and lay leaders in August 2018 to discuss potential responses to the clergy sexual abuse crisis. The Diocese was among the first few dozen in the country to publicly release a list of the names of all priests credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor during the 40 year history of the Diocese.

tection of Children and Young People. Soon a permanent diocesan ministry of Charter Initiatives was created to make sure the diocese was following local and national policies to prevent abuse.

"Bishop Barnes realized that immediate, open and honest communications with the people of the Diocese and with the media was the best approach no matter how difficult it was," recalled Deacon Mike Jelley, who was part of Bishop Barnes' advisory group and later became the first director of the Office of Charter Initiatives. "In every meeting he never wavered in his determination to serve the needs of survivors, to immediately remove from ministry those for whom a credible accusation was

received and to implement training and policies to keep children and young people safe."

In 2003, Bishop Barnes made the difficult decision for the Diocese to take legal action against the Archdiocese of Boston over its failure to disclose Shanley's history of sexual abuse of minors before he came to the Diocese. The Diocese had been named in a lawsuit by one of Shanley's victims and sought to have its settlement costs covered by the Archdiocese of Boston.

Further elevating the importance of keeping the local Church's commitment to preventing abuse, Bishop Barnes established the Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection in 2008. The Office has since overseen the Diocese's comprehensive fingerprinting process, Virtus Safe Environment training, "Restoring Me" Retreat program for victims of abuse and audits for compliance with the national charter.

In 2004, the Diocese of San Bernardino was ranked seventh out of 191 dioceses and archdioceses, nationally, in terms of implementing the Charter requirements.

"We've been in compliance with every audit since 2003," says Elder Samaniego, current Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection. "It reflects Bishop Barnes' response to the crisis.

"It wasn't a payoff, it was his care and personal interest in doing the right thing."

In 2008, the Diocese entered into a global settlement agreement, along with the Diocese of San Diego and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, paying \$18.2 million to 19 different victims of abuse.

As the Diocese continued to carry out its ministry of child and youth protection, the abuse scandal hit a second wave in 2018 with the release of a staggering Pennsylvania Grand Jury report of past clergy sexual abuse in the state, and the revelation of multiple allegations of past sexual abuse of minors and adults by high-ranking Cardinal Theodore McCarrick.

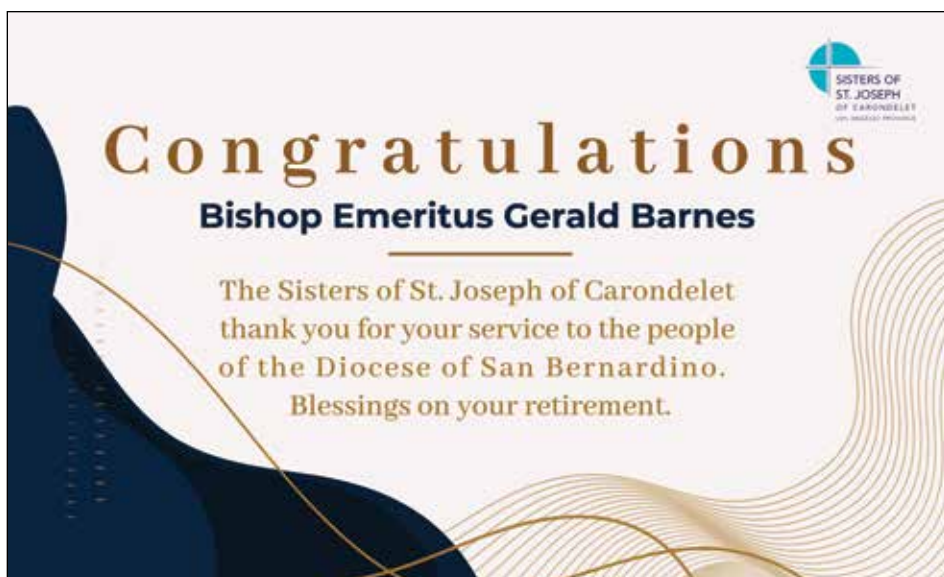
In August of that year Bishop Barnes convened a meeting of the priests and deacons of the diocese, the Council of Religious Sisters, members of the Diocesan Review Board, seminarians and lay directors of diocesan offices. They discussed potential local responses to the crisis. One was releasing publicly the names of all priests credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors in the history of the Diocese.

In October 2018 the Diocese became one of the first few dozen in the U.S. to publish its list of credibly accused priests.

"In this difficult time, I want to be open, honest and accountable to the Catholic faithful and all people of goodwill," Bishop Barnes said in a video message announcing the release of the list. "I again offer my apologies and my deepest regrets to those who were victimized by the men on this list and to all the faithful of the Diocese who have been scandalized by this shameful chapter in our Church's history."

The following year Bishop Barnes led the Diocese to participate in the statewide Independent Compensation Program (ICP) for Victims of Sexual Abuse by Diocesan Priests. The program, which involved six dioceses in California, offered any victim/survivor of childhood sexual abuse by a diocesan priest the opportunity to seek a non-adversarial resolution, regardless of when the abuse had occurred. Third-party mediators administered the ICP, which was meant to give victims an alternative to litigation. When the ICP program closed in August 2021, the Diocese had paid 15 claims totaling \$2.2 million.

The painful abuse scandal remains present in the life of the local Church but so, too, the vigilance of the Diocese to protect children and prevent future abuses. "It is an article of our faith that out of great pain and trial can eventually come God's blessings. *Que no hay mal que por bien no venga,*" Bishop Barnes said in 2018 when he bestowed his Amar Es Entregarse Award on the Office of Child and Youth Protection. "This is the story of our Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection."





# The Bishop's Dinner: twenty years of supporting seminarians and honoring servants of the Church

It was initially billed as “An Evening with His Excellency Gerald Barnes, Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino,” and it attracted notable Catholic entertainment figures Jane Wyman, Dolores Hope and Monty Hall. The initial goal was to raise money for the construction of a new House of Formation for diocesan seminarians.

Before long it was simply “The Bishop’s Dinner,” and it would also serve as a platform for Bishop Barnes to recognize faithful servants of the local Church who embodied his Episcopal Motto, “Amar Es Entregarse” (“Love is the total giving of oneself”).

The charity dinner began in 2000 and, except for one year when it traveled to the Riverside Convention Center, it has always been held in the Coachella Valley. In the early years, it moved from the Palm Springs Convention Center to larger locations that could accommodate the demand for more than 1,000 seating capacity.

Mary Farrell, who was a key supporter and planner of the Bishop’s Dinner (along with the late Virginia Zamboni), recalls that Bishop Barnes was initially reluctant to add another charity event to the many that were already taking place in the local Church, particularly in the Coachella Valley.

“We persisted and we finally got him to say ‘yes,’” Farrell said.

She and Zamboni presented the idea of the dinner as a platform to focus attention on Bishop Barnes’ leadership and priorities for the Diocese – particularly the needs of the seminarian program.

At the inaugural Bishop’s Dinner on March 18, 2000, Bishop Barnes invited his guests to dream of a new house of formation for diocesan seminarians, who had outgrown the aging Serra House facilities in Riverside. A year later at the Second Annual Bishop’s Dinner it was announced that land in the city of Grand Terrace had been purchased as the future site of Serra House of Formation. In 2005, the new



**THE BISHOP’S DINNER** The Bishop’s Dinner was started in 2000 to raise money for a new House of Formation for diocesan seminarians. Today, the charity dinner benefits the Diocesan Seminarian Fund and serves as a platform for the Bishop to recognize faithful servants of the local Church who embody his motto of “Amar Es Entregarse” (Love is the total giving of oneself). (Pictured) Bishop Barnes presents the Amar Es Entregarse medallion to Sister Maria Jennifer Nguyen, L.H.C. at the 2019 Bishop’s Dinner.

Serra House of Formation was dedicated on Oriole Avenue, a \$5.6 million project that had received funds raised at the first five Bishop’s Dinner events.

The dinner has continued to benefit the Diocesan Seminarian Fund and it has served as an occasion for attendees to meet diocesan seminarians and learn about their experiences in formation and the resources that are needed to educate and house them during their journey.

“People were not aware of how the seminarians were supported, they just figured the money was there,” Farrell says.

In 2002, Bishop Barnes began honoring members of the local Church with a Bishop’s Award at the dinner. +Sister Georgianna Cahill, then Director of Catholic Charities San Bernardino-Riverside, had suggested to him that he name the award after his Episcopal Motto. Before long, the bestowing of the Amar Es Entregarse

Award was a central and joyous element of the dinner as Bishop Barnes introduced his honorees, listened to their acceptance remarks, and then draped a beautiful gold medallion around their neck. Since 2002, 95 individuals, couples and organizations have received the Amar Es Entregarse Award.

Bill Lemann, longtime benefactor of the Diocese and its legal counsel, said the award holds a special place for him.

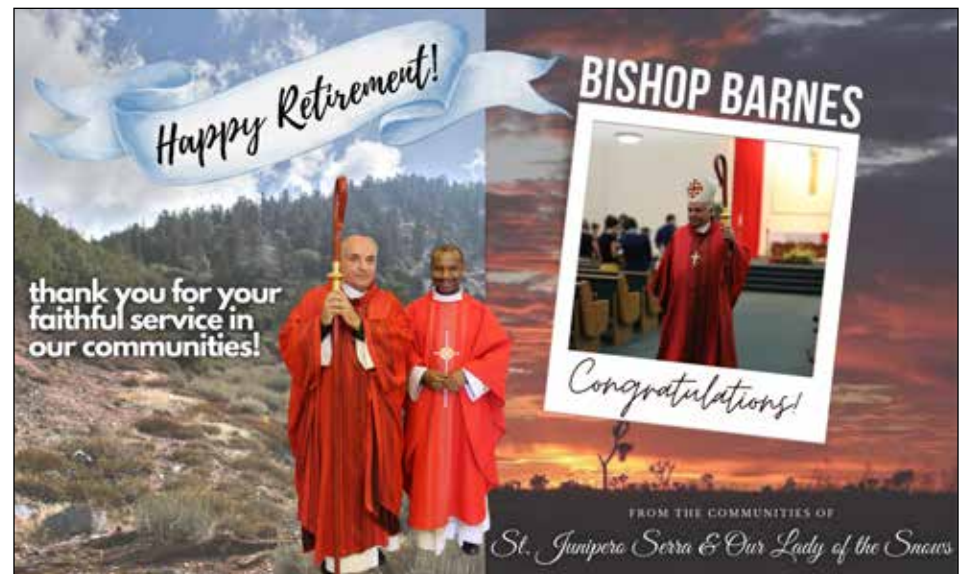
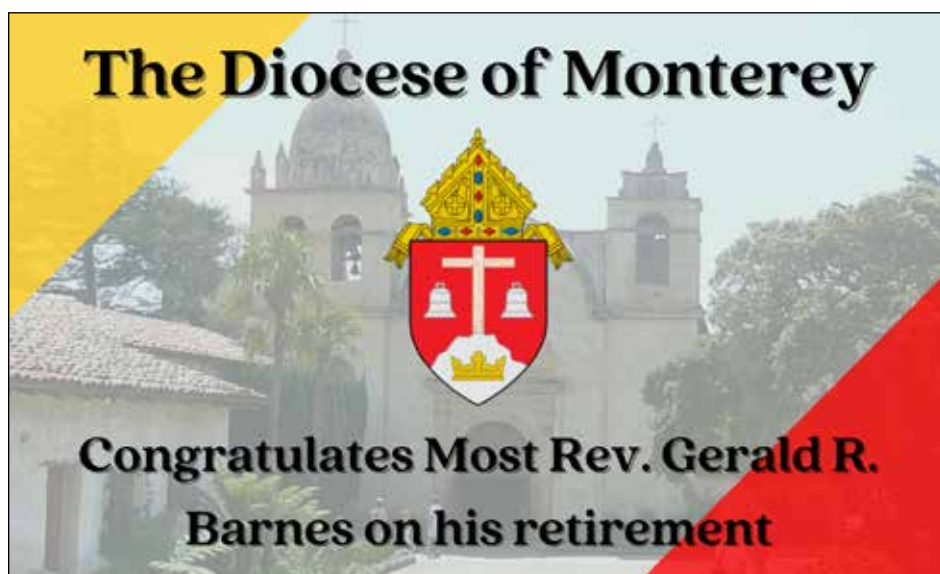
“To even be considered a nominee of the prestigious Amar es Entregarse Award – much less be a recipient – is a pinnacle point of my participation in the life of the Church,” said Lemann, who received the Amar Es Entregarse Award in 2002. “I will remain forever grateful for the leadership, loyalty and love shown us all by Bishop Barnes.”

Bishop Barnes was faithfully joined at the dinner by the Auxiliary Bishops of the

Diocese, beginning with Bishop Dennis O’Neill at the third Bishop’s Dinner and continuing with Bishop Rutilio del Riego every year since his September 2005 Ordination.

In a moving, full-circle moment, Bishop Barnes received his own Amar Es Entregarse medal at the 20th Bishop’s Dinner, the first held following his December 2020 retirement. The evening served as a tribute to his 25 years of Episcopal leadership of the Diocese.

“Amar es Entregarse is about giving, not receiving,” Bishop Barnes said in accepting the award. “For me to be honored with this award is not something I ever expected or hoped for. It was always my great joy to bestow it on someone through these years of the Bishop’s Dinner in recognition of their generous and unselfish service to the people of God.”

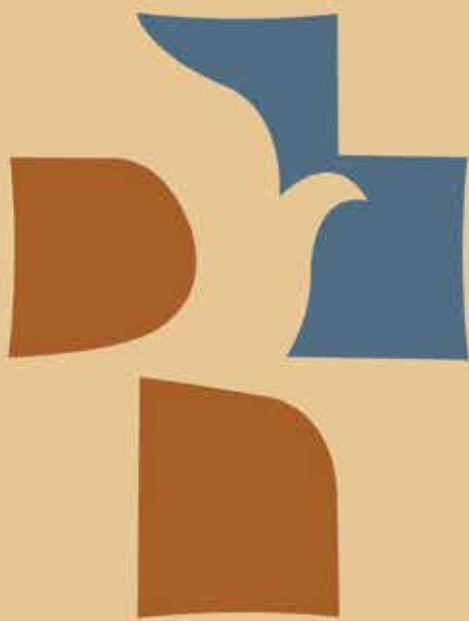




On behalf of all the priests of the Diocese,  
thank you, Bishop Barnes, for your leadership,  
guidance and love. Enjoy your retirement!



**Office of Priest Personnel**  
**Diocese of San Bernardino**



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*In Retirement*



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and your unconditional love for the  
people of God. Indeed, you exemplify  
*Amar es Entregarse*. Thank you.

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# Building A Culture of Encounter

## Bishop Barnes addresses the tensions and challenges of a multicultural Diocese

*As he was approaching retirement in late 2020, Bishop Barnes sat down with Father Soney Sebastian, SVD, for an interview on Wordnet TV. A good part of the discussion centered on Bishop Barnes' reflections on the multicultural reality of the Diocese – its blessings, its challenges and what our Catholic faith tells us about recognizing the presence of God in all people.*

**Fr. Soney:** When you look at the demography of this [Diocese], we get a feeling that there is a growing number of Hispanic people, and there is a decline in the Anglo community and we see that very tangibly in many of our parishes, in our churches and in the ministries. Because of that do you think there has been any kind of tension?

**Bishop Barnes:** There is tension; tension is real; tension is not necessarily bad. The tension helps us grow. But we have to be open to working with it, what it is saying, and not running away from it or not blaming people. I sincerely believe that if I meet a person of another race or ethnicity, or generation, God has that person there for some reason for me. That's what I'm saying about that encounter, a culture of encounter. God has placed that person there, that person is made in God's image and likeness.

And I get to know my God and who my God is even more by knowing other people, but the tension is there. Part of it is that the Hispanic community has been a part of these lands for generations since before we were a country. I mean even the name San Bernardino, it's in Spanish, right? For St. Bernardine. So, this part of the United States was settled by Hispanic people so that the roots are here and when the roots are there it attracts other people with those same affiliations, right? Because that's who we are.

The other aspect is Hispanic families today are growing, they have more children than white or Anglo families, and they



tend to stick together, where with the Anglo you might live here but you have a son living in Florida and one in Canada, one in Texas. Whereas the Hispanics will mostly be still in their neighborhood with their families, so that gives a bigger number.

The other is that the Hispanic story is very, very tied to their faith and so they're going to be there for the celebrations of that faith, and it's not just for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe or for the Sunday Mass that they're going to be coming. At one time, for the Anglo community that was part of the identity. You were very tied to your parish, you had guilds, had societies. That no longer exists in the same number that the Hispanics have.

So that, in some way, for some people, is threatening. Like they're taking over exactly for the other people. Some might say, "I wish I knew the story of my Italian roots, or my Polish celebrations." The

Hispanics still have that and so there's a certain piety that they bring, a certain popular religiosity that in some way has not continued in the English speaking or the Anglo community and that brings tension. Sometimes, I think it is a little jealousy and sometimes it's fear.

If we just, say, eliminated the Spanish-speaking community from this Diocese, we would have to close over half of our churches because 74 percent of the Catholics in this Diocese are Hispanic origin. Only 30 percent are immigrants; 70 percent are native born, but they're still Hispanic, with the same kind of roots and affiliations.

**Fr. Soney:** It is not only just the Hispanic community, but there are also so many ethnic Asian communities that have come into our Diocese and contributed.

**Bishop Barnes:** Yes. Half of our parishes contribute also to the growth of the number of Asian Catholics that have moved in and that are also seen as a threat by some people. [We have a] growing number of Filipinos and we have the Vietnamese Catholics, Korean Catholics, Chinese Catholics, Indonesian Catholics, Indian Catholics, Arabic speaking Catholics. We have Latin rite Catholics, Portuguese Catholics ... the largest number is Hispanic, but the fastest growing number is Asian and some of what they bring others feel threatened by.

It's people feeling that whatever is foreign may threaten them. That's why we need to meet them, know them and, hope-

fully, bring it to our Catholic faith. That's what we have in common, that's our roots and do we appreciate them. The same thing goes for the ethnic communities themselves. They struggle and there's this tension in themselves, so it's not that one group is free of the tension. The tension exists in all the groups.

**Fr. Soney:** How many parishes do we have in the Diocese?

**Bishop Barnes:** We have 92 parishes and 13 missions.

**Fr. Soney:** There is a mixture, a growing number of different ethnicities now to serve and that is also a difficult situation. Do you have enough priests, deacons and lay ministers? How are you able to handle that?

**Bishop Barnes:** Well, it's very, it's very challenging. The numbers of priests. When we started with 235,000 [Catholics], we had 100 diocesan active priests (not retired or ill). Today we have less than 60 diocesan priests and 1.7 million Catholics, so we are very fortunate to have a number of religious communities ... We have communities from the Philippines, from Korea, from Mexico, Guatemala, Africa, so we have a number of religious priests from different parts of the country and different parts of the world. And then we have extern priests who are priests from other dioceses, either in the United States or in other parts of the world. And so all of those are coming together to help us with that.

These priests from other countries, they're really missionaries to us. But that doesn't release us from the responsibility of promoting vocations among our own people.

**Fr. Soney:** When somebody comes from the other country, we bring a certain aspect of that country, that culture, but there's also a challenge. It's not that easy to get oneself acclimatized and inducted into a new culture and a new system and a new way of living.

**Bishop Barnes:** So, when we have this meeting of cultures, that's an opportunity for us to evangelize one another. And the Church has always done that; it's one of the great successes of the Catholic Church is that everybody belongs. They say we invited the Catholics, that means everybody's coming.

That's who we are. But as Americans, unfortunately, we excel in a lot of things, but we are very poor in understanding history or appreciating history or geography. Everything revolves around us and so you see somebody from India or Africa, or China and you can't believe that person is a Catholic.

Bishop Barnes,

Thank you for your years of service to the people of the Diocese of San Bernardino. You have been an inspirational shepherd to many and have brought unity and hope throughout both Riverside and San Bernardino counties. May God bless you in retirement and may the Holy Spirit open the doors for those ministries which He has placed in your heart.

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL, ALTA LOMA

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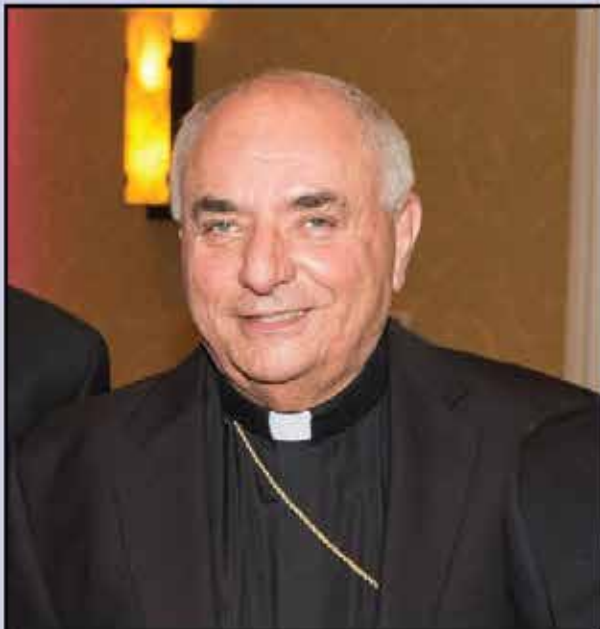


*Congratulations to Bishop Barnes on your retirement!*

*May God bless you always.*

*St. Catherine of Alexandria*

*Temecula, CA*



“Start by doing what’s necessary;  
then do what’s possible;  
and suddenly you are doing the  
impossible.”

– St. Francis of Assisi

**Bishop Barnes,**

**In honor of your 25 years of  
inspiration and dedicated  
support for the poor and  
vulnerable in the Diocese  
of San Bernardino.**



(Amar Es Entregarse Award Recipient 2016)



# Bishop Barnes oversaw a period of intense growth, change

By Anneliese Esparza  
Managing Editor

When Bishop Barnes began leading the Diocese of San Bernardino in 1996, there were just over 600,000 Catholics in the region. Throughout his episcopacy, the number of Catholics continued to steadily climb to where it is today, at nearly 1.8 million. At the same time, the region's population has become increasingly diverse, and is now one of the most ethnically diverse regions in the nation.

"Everybody decided to come to the Diocese at the same time, and they came from all over the world, which is a great blessing and a great challenge. It's like if you're married and you don't have a child, and then about five years later you have a child, and then now you have seven. And all came relatively at the same time and you still have only a two or three bedroom house. That's what happened here," said Bishop Barnes of the Diocese's immense growth.

"We didn't have enough personnel. We didn't have enough finances, and we didn't have the structures. And so, we did what we could. There was a lot more that was needed," said Bishop Barnes.

One major challenge was finding a way to construct churches and other buildings for the growing Diocese despite having limited funds. It was often a long journey for parishioners to raise enough money to fund their new church. "In some places it took years: 20 years for them to build their church, 25 years to build a bigger church. They're having Masses with half



**RAPID GROWTH** Bishop Barnes oversaw the Diocese during a period of extensive growth, as the Catholic population nearly tripled from 1996-2020. Pictured is Bishop Barnes and college students at the September 2017 groundbreaking ceremony of the Bishop Barnes Newman Center near California State University, San Bernardino.

the people outside, half the people inside, even in all kinds of inclement weather," said Bishop Barnes.

On the diocesan end, the goal was to build churches as economically and efficiently as possible. To this end, the Diocesan Office of Construction and Real Estate created a standardized plan for building new churches.

"To address the demand for larger worship spaces due to the substantial popula-

tion growth and high cost of construction, the Diocese developed, with the support and inspiration of Bishop Barnes, a prototype structure that has greatly reduced construction cost while maintaining an architecturally pleasing building with an emphasis on 'simple nobility,'" said David Meier, Director of the Office of Construction and Real Estate.

"Also guided by Bishop Barnes, the Diocese constructs new churches as owner-

builder, which enables the Diocese to realize about a 20 percent reduction in overall cost of a project," added Meier.

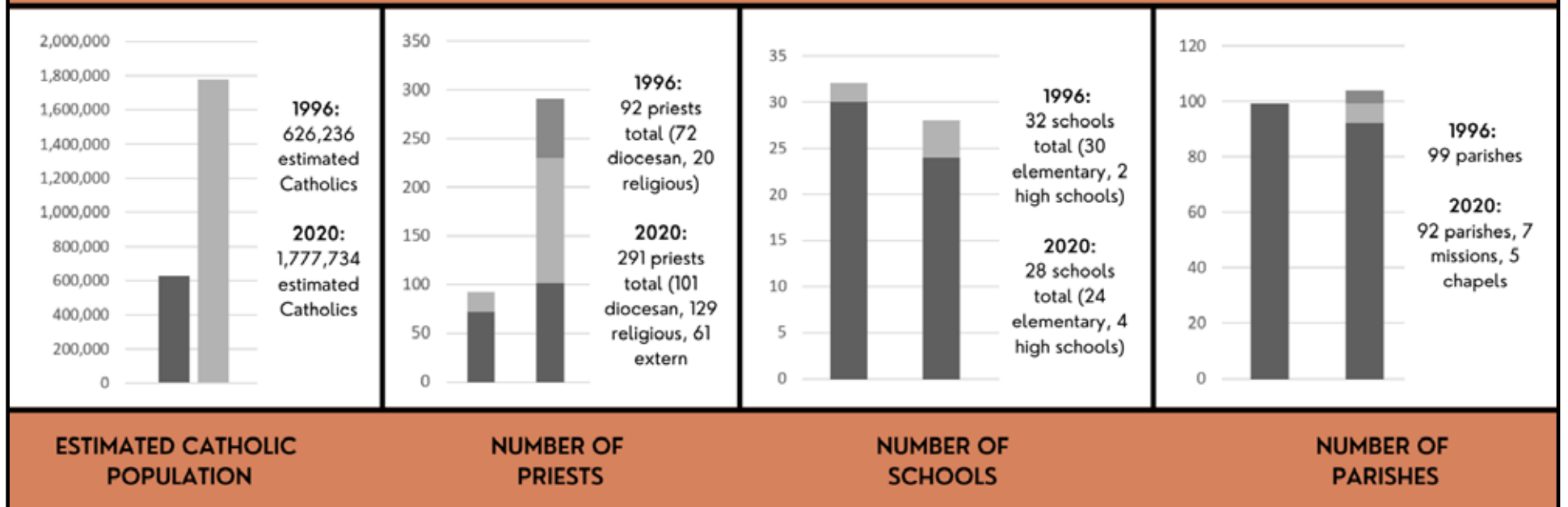
Using this strategy, the Diocese was able to complete 54 major construction projects under Bishop Barnes' episcopacy (1996-2020). Of these, 33 were completely new structures (such as a church, multipurpose building or school building), 19 were renovations/expansions and 2 were other (a temporary church structure and an entrance/courtyard). The building boom reached its apex in 2016 when Bishop Barnes dedicated three new worship space - Queen of Angels, Riverside; Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Winchester, and St. Adelaide, Highland - during one weekend in April.

Bishop Barnes said that despite not being able to build everything he had wanted to, such as a youth center in every vicariate and a Catholic hospital in the Coachella Valley, he feels that the Diocese did the best it could given its resources. "I had a lot more plans and ideas for the Diocese, but time catches up with you, and it's somebody else's turn ... We tried our best. We made some mistakes, but we had a lot of success," he said.

Bishop Barnes said that the current Synod on Synodality will be an excellent time for the Diocese to take stock of its past and present while planning for the future. "[During the Synod] we can ask ourselves, how do we build on this and go forward? Always forward. I think the Synod will help give some direction to that," he said.

## THE DIOCESE BY THE NUMBERS: 1996 AND 2020

At the same time that the Catholic population was booming in the Diocese, the number of diocesan priests was dropping. Bishop Gerald Barnes had to face the challenge of having insufficient funds and priests to serve the rapidly growing Diocese. This graphic compares the number of Catholics, priests, schools and parishes when Bishop Barnes began his Episcopacy in 1996 and when he ended it in 2020.







Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS; Auxiliary Bishop Michael Boulette; Auxiliary Bishop Gary Janak, and the faithful of the Archdiocese of San Antonio congratulate one of our own, Bishop Gerald Barnes, a priest of the archdiocese, on his retirement following his long and distinguished service as shepherd of the Diocese of San Bernardino, California. We offer our prayers and best wishes to our brother in his new ministry as bishop emeritus.





*Mabuhay!!!*

Bishop Emeritus Gerald R. Barnes,  
We wish you the best of blessings as you  
enjoy your retirement, and we thank you  
for your leadership, service and  
commitment to the people of the Diocese  
of San Bernardino.



*The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette,  
Ina ng Pag-asa (Mother of Hope) Province, Philippines*



# Bishop Barnes left behind a legacy of promoting lay formation

By Laura Lopez

“If you don’t have time to educate yourself in the faith, it is not your time to serve.”

Bishop Barnes’ legacy in the formation of the laity is important not only because it opened doors and provided opportunities for formation, but because in doing so, he challenged us to be responsible for the mission of our Church.

In January 2010 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Indio, more than one hundred volunteer ministers gathered to dialogue with Bishop Barnes and to hear his message during his Episcopal visit to the parish. “Everything was going well,” commented the coordinator of the Landscape Ministry, “until I heard the phrase: ‘If you don’t have time to educate yourself in the faith, it is not your time to serve,’ which came from the Bishop in a soft but firm tone, and which troubled me.”

At that time, I was the Pastoral Coordinator of the parish, which is why this volunteer approached me the next day to share that he understood the importance for catechists and liturgical ministers to be formed in the faith, but he just wanted to make sure that the Bishop was not referring to him with those words, since formation education programs are not necessary to cut the grass.

“That is what the Bishop said,” I told him, “but you – what is it that you heard that has troubled you?”

He replied, “That we are all responsible for the mission of the Church, and we must form ourselves.”

After that Episcopal visit, hundreds of ministers began the six-month basic formation Parish Ministers Formation Program (PMFP), a program within the Ministry Formation Institute. Many of them also completed three years of advanced training, Continuing Ministry Formation Program (CMFP), and obtained specializations in different service areas in the Diocese.

The creation of the lay formation ministry in our Diocese dates from the leadership of Bishop Phillip F. Straling, first bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino, who discovered the need to establish formation programs for ministries. As a result, he created the Straling Leadership Institute, which offered two years of formation for catechetical, liturgical and pastoral ministries.

In 1995, when Bishop Barnes was appointed to be the ordinary of our Diocese, he embraced the mission of his predecessor and extended the vision of formation for the laity with the collaboration of professionals in evangelization and after listening to the voice of the people through a series of consultations.



**A LEGACY OF LEARNING** Bishop Barnes congratulates Monica Tamayo as she graduates from the Continuing Ministry Formation Program (CMFP) in 2017. This flagship program of the Diocese offered through the Ministry Formation Institute helps fulfill the Bishop’s goal of empowering the laity for ministry leadership.

Thus, what we know today as the Ministry Formation Institute (MFI) was born, which, through bilingual instruction, offers an advanced level of education in theology, spirituality and holy scriptures for all. With the leadership of Bishop Barnes, the Institute has attained great achievements, including its association with Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, which offers the Catholic Bible Institute and the Certificate in Pastoral Care in the Diocese; its collaboration with Santa Clara University, which offers a Master’s degree in Pastoral Ministries in our Diocese; and its collaboration with the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

Bishop Barnes’ vision of excellence in education and formation has led the Institute to maintain constant growth in search of communion in mission: as he often says, “Always Forward!”

His creative drive has led to the Continuing Ministry Formation Program (CMFP) recognized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as meeting the certification standards for

lay ecclesial ministry leaders serving as catechetical leaders, Ministry with Young Catholics Leader (including Pastoral Juvenil Hispana), Adult Faith Formation Coordinator, Liturgy Coordinator, Charity and Justice Coordinator, Life and Dignity Coordinator and Pastoral Associate. There are only six dioceses in the United States that have received this level of recognition.

In addition, CMFP was recently certified through the Association for Hispanic Theological Education as having baccalaureate equivalence. Therefore, CMFP graduates can enter master’s programs in theology and pastoral ministry, even though they may not have an undergraduate degree, and can possibly transfer some of their credit units toward a master’s degree at higher education institutions approved by the Association for Theological Studies.

One of the questions that Bishop Barnes commonly asks, not only in terms of formation, but in any pastoral planning or areas of ecclesial life, is “Who is not at the table?” That is, let us not just think

about who we are welcoming, but who we are excluding. This question has been the starting point for many initiatives that have favored formation access for “everyone” – especially those who for any reason have not had an opportunity for education.

One of these initiatives has led the Institute to another great achievement: starting this semester, the Institute will provide the CMFP faculty, facilitators and students access to the Digital Theological Research Library, which is a valuable resource that provides a great benefit to the formation of the laity, especially in a missionary diocese rich in diversity such as San Bernardino.

Immense gratitude will always prevail in the hearts and minds of the parishioners of the Diocese of San Bernardino for Bishop Barnes’ contribution to the formation of the laity. All of us who have had opportunities at different levels, both to train through the Institute and to obtain university degrees through its leadership, have the conviction to respond co-respon-



# Bishop Barnes empowered women to become leaders

By Anneliese Esparza  
Managing Editor

When Bishop Barnes joined the Diocese as Auxiliary Bishop in 1992, most leadership positions in the Diocese were occupied by men. Upon assuming the role of ordinary bishop a few years later, Bishop Barnes used his position to give women a seat at the decision-making table and empower them to lead as chancellors, vice chancellors, pastoral coordinators and department directors.

“Things are very different now than they were when I first started. Most of the women were secretaries and now we are in leadership [positions],” said Vice Chancellor Maria Echeverria, a longtime diocesan employee who was hired to be then-Auxiliary Bishop Barnes’ secretary in 1992.

“At the time, most of the people, the directors, anyone who had any leadership position, were men. And the very few women that were directors, or in any type of leadership, were nuns. There were no laywomen in the Curia or anything like that,” said Echeverria.

“[Bishop Barnes] felt that the faces of those that we serve were not represented, meaning most of the people at the table were men, and most of them were of European descent. He started looking to fill the table that makes the decisions to show the faces of the people we serve ... little by little he started questioning, why aren’t they at the table? Why aren’t they helping us make decisions when half of the Diocese is women? Why aren’t they here to speak for themselves?” said Echeverria.

Under the previous bishop, Bishop Philip Straling, there was a Women’s Commission that met with him periodically to share their viewpoints to aid in his decision making. However, Bishop Barnes took it a step further by allowing women to not just give indirect input to the deci-



**OPENING THE DOOR** Bishop Barnes made a concerted effort to include women in leadership positions and decision-making in the Diocese. LEFT: Bishop Barnes and Maria Echeverria, now Vice Chancellor, in 2000. RIGHT: Bishop Barnes and Patricia Vesely, who served as Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese from 2010-2018.

sion-makers, but to be part of the team of decision-makers themselves.

For Bishop Barnes, having women as part of the decision-making table is invaluable. “Women see the world differently, experience the world differently as mothers, as single women, as wives and daughters. And so that perspective needs to be heard. If a decision is going to be made that affects everyone, that perspective needs to be heard,” said Bishop Barnes.

“I don’t think we get the whole picture just listening to one gender. If we are a community as a church, every person through their own experiences and every gender has a different approach to things, a different view,” he said.

One leadership role that Bishop Barnes appointed several women to was that of the pastoral coordinator of a parish. According to canon law, the bishop can designate a qualified deacon, religious or layperson to lead a parish administratively if

a pastor is not available. The majority of individuals who served as pastoral coordinators in the Diocese were women, either lay or religious.

One such woman was Laura Lopez, who was the pastoral coordinator of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Indio, from 2008-2016 and who is now the Director of the Department of Pastoral Planning.

When Lopez arrived, she said that some parishioners did express their disappointment with having a laywoman as their parish leader. Nonetheless, she made an effort to lead by cooperation with the entire community. “I opened the door to all the community members to share their gifts, time, and resources while inviting their involvement in the parish’s planning and decision-making process,” she said.

Lopez said that Bishop Barnes’ support has opened doors for women, giving them opportunities they didn’t have before.

“I am forever grateful to Bishop Barnes’ dedicated initiatives to invite women to diocesan positions; however, I believe Bishop Barnes’ legacy should continue to challenge us to include women at the decision-making table,” she said.

A number of “firsts” in the area of women in leadership occurred under Bishop Barnes’ tenure. First, Theresa Montminy became the Diocese’s first laywoman Chancellor in 2009, serving after two religious sisters had occupied the position.

In 2005, Maria Echeverria became the first Latina laywoman in the country to serve as Vice Chancellor.

Currently, the Diocese’s Chancellor is a woman (Sister Leticia Salazar, ODN), as is one of the Diocese’s two Vice Chancellors (Maria Echeverria). Women make up approximately 50 percent of the department/office directors in the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

With all the progress that has been made in this Diocese, Bishop Barnes believes that there is more that can be done to promote female leaders in the Church. “I think there’s a lot of ways to go yet; there are a lot of positions in the Church that are open for women that we have not in the past promoted women to,” he said. “And so I think a lot more has to happen, I think there needs to be a lot better understanding between the way women and men see things.”

Bishop Barnes,  
May the God of mercy bless and protect you.  
May the God of peace comfort you in all your memories.  
May the God of love continue to shine forth in your life.  
May you be filled with gratitude and joy!

*Sisters of Mercy, Diocese of San Bernardino*

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In life we are blessed with people who through the grace of God impact our lives, revive our spirit, and inspire our actions. The Sacred Heart Family and I see our beloved Bishop Emeritus Gerald Barnes in this light. As the Bishop of San Bernardino for about 26 years, the Most Rev. Gerald Barnes truly remains an icon of a good shepherd, a master of virtues, and a very Holy Pastor to this Diocese and to all who were privileged to meet him. As bishop he was a friend to the poor, a hope to migrants, and an advocate to those looking for justice, not only in the church, but also in the civil society. In him, we celebrate a church man and a lover of humanity.

In the spirit of all your achievements in this Diocese, we members of your Sacred Heart Family in the city of Rancho Cucamonga wish you the best of retirement. May the Lord grant you more blessings, as you have been a blessing to many people, from los barrios de San Bernardino to las fincas de El Salvador, from the villages in Africa to the cities here in the United States.

You have been a source of hope to our brothers in Blythe, to those who are seeking asylum in Coachella, the source of light to the church in Niddos, and to the rest of the parishes in the Diocese of San Bernardino. We thank you and say, *muchas gracias por su labor en la viña del Señor*.

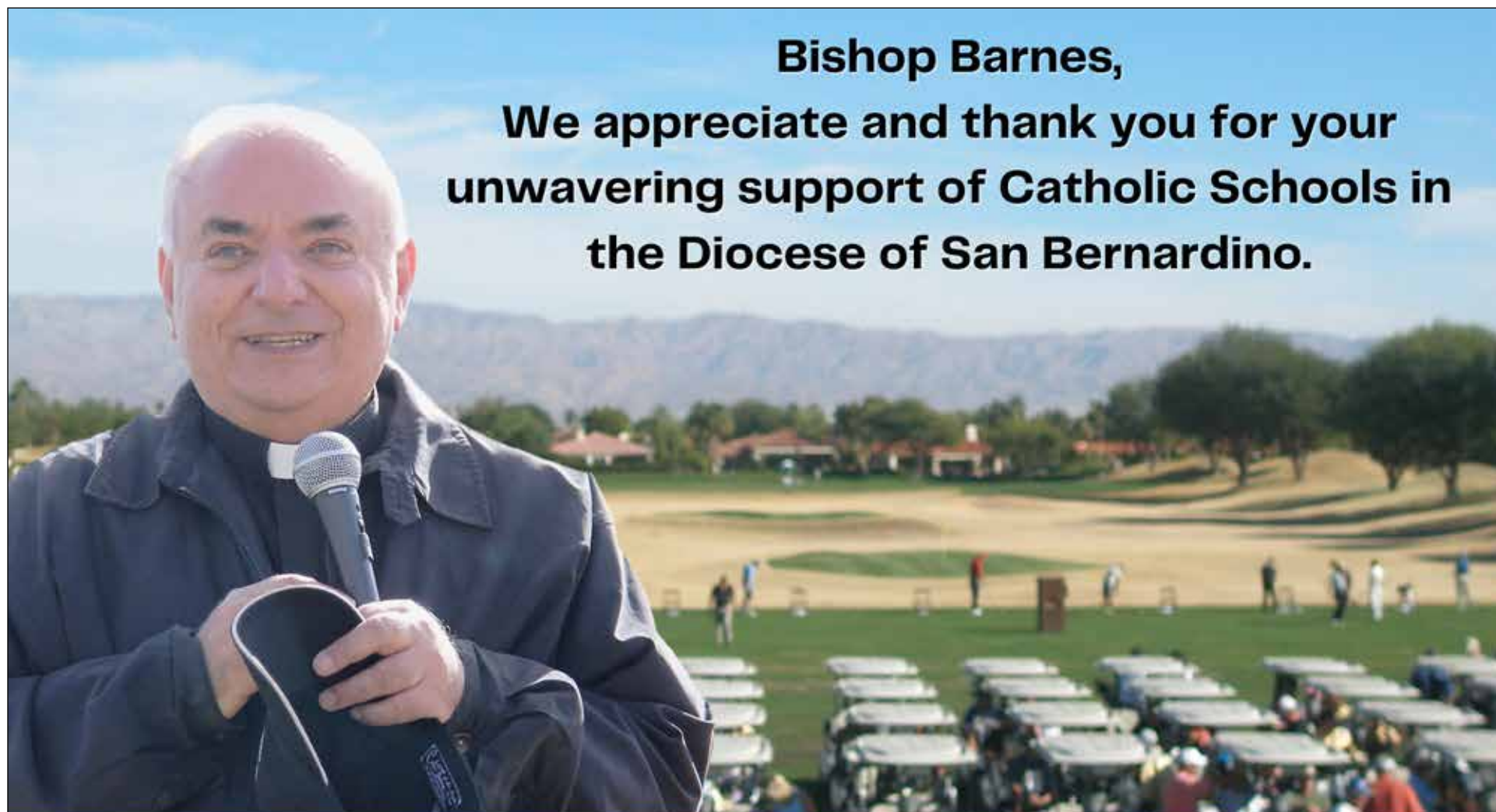
*Salamat, dankeschön and unu emela.* Remember you are part of our Sacred Heart Family.

Your brother in the wounded Heart of our Savior,  
Very Rev. Benedict Nwachukwu-Udaku, VF



**THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF SACRED  
HEART, RANCHO CUCAMONGA**





**Bishop Barnes,  
We appreciate and thank you for your  
unwavering support of Catholic Schools in  
the Diocese of San Bernardino.**

**THE OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

**His Excellency, Most Rev. Gerald R. Barnes  
Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of San Bernardino**



**Congratulations on your  
retirement! Christ the  
Redeemer in Grand Terrace  
is thankful for your  
leadership over the years  
and especially for including  
us in the solar panel  
installation project. God  
Bless your retirement and we  
pray for success in your  
future endeavors.**

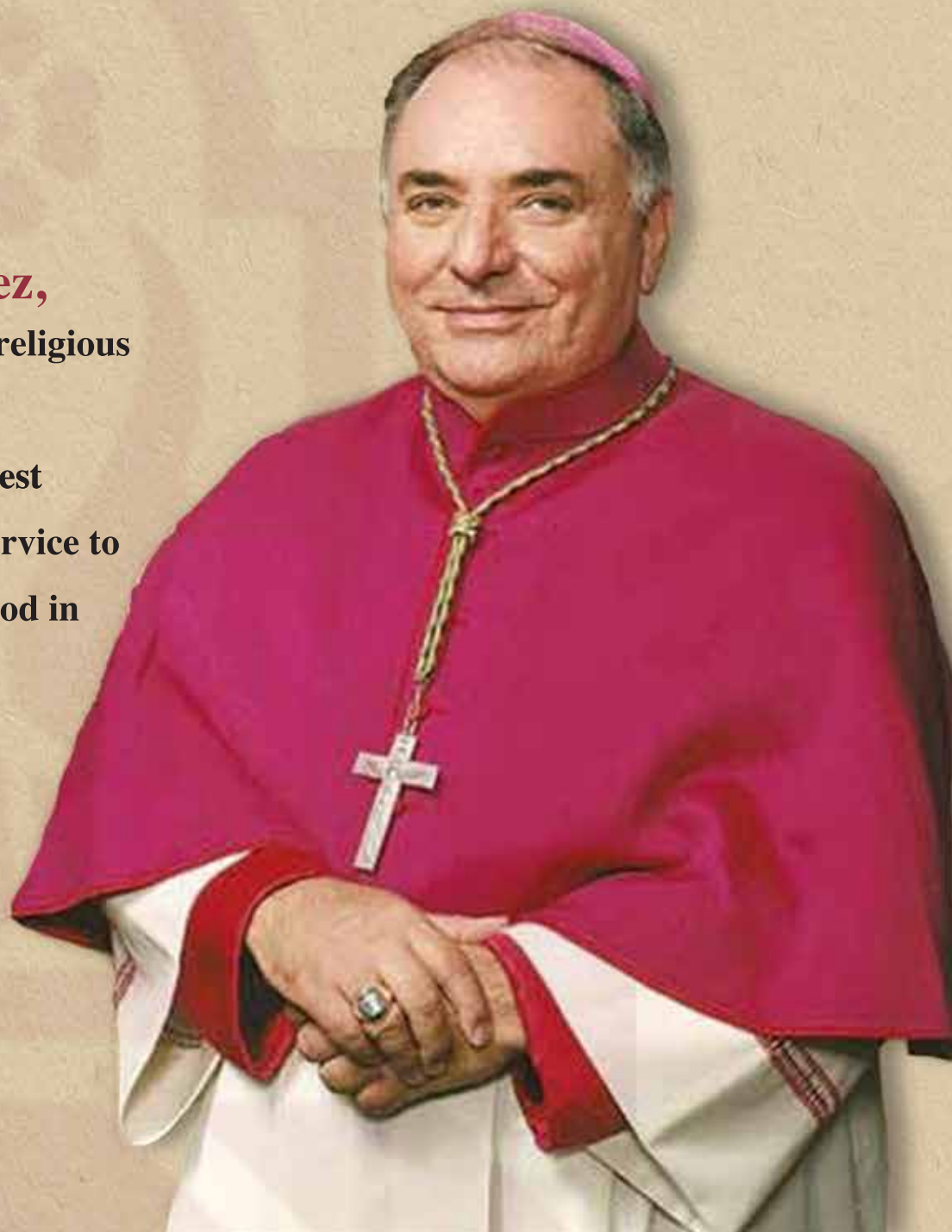


*Blessings and  
Prayerful Best Wishes*

BISHOP EMERITUS GERALD BARNES

*on your retirement*

**Archbishop José H. Gomez,**  
the Auxiliary Bishops, the clergy, religious  
and laity of the Archdiocese of  
Los Angeles, offer our prayerful best  
wishes to you for your generous service to  
the Church and to the People of God in  
the Diocese of San Bernardino.







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*Serving the Diocese of San Bernardino for 40 years*



***“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”***

**(Phil 1:6)**

**The work you have begun will endure and bear fruit for many years to come.  
Thank you, Bishop Barnes, for your faithful service to our Diocese and  
for allowing us to be part of your legacy.**

*Bill Lemann, Tom Dominick, David Colella  
and Doreen Kennedy*



# A Vision for the Church of San Bernardino

*Bishop Barnes made development of a Diocesan Vision an early priority of his Episcopacy*

To newly appointed Ordinary, Gerald Barnes, the fabric of his Diocese was vibrant and colorful—but it lacked a common thread.

So when he assumed leadership of the Diocese in 1995, he said it was critical to continue the consultation process begun under his predecessor, Bishop Phillip Straling, that would lead to a shared statement of vision for this local Church.

“It was like a scattering of a lot of things that did not sense yet a direction that they all had in common,” Bishop Barnes recalls. “Everybody was doing something good but we weren’t tied to each other.”

Bishop Barnes had been centrally involved in the consultation process when he was Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese so he was able to “take the baton” from Bishop Straling and move forward with the second and third phases of the process smoothly. At the same time, his own spirituality began to inform the visioning process in new ways. He insisted that every effort be made to include groups that had been traditionally underrepresented in Diocesan dialogues. And he asked those charged with writing down the vision that it imagine a Church present in all aspects of life and community.

“He wanted every group participating,” said Sister Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN, who served as Diocesan Director of Pastoral Planning and was the director of the Planning Council created to shepherd the Visioning process. “We wanted everybody listening to each other and contributing.”

The consultation process began in 1995 and involved listening sessions in every Vicariate of the Diocese, written surveys and education and training programs offered by groups like the Mexican-American Cultural Center (MACC). Sr. Nelson said Bishop Barnes urged the members of Planning Council to craft a Vision that directly reflected the hopes, dreams and concerns of the people of the Diocese that had been involved.



**A NEW VISION IS UNVEILED** Bishop Barnes made the new Diocesan Vision public during a Vesper Service held at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral on May 20, 1997. The Vision was printed on a scroll that was passed forward by the congregation to Bishop Barnes, who then read it aloud.

“This was a vision that didn’t come from the top down, it came from the bottom up,” Sr. Nelson said. “It was probably the most exciting time I have seen among the people of the Diocese.”

On May 20, the Feast of St. Bernardine, in 1997, a Vesper Service was held at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral to unveil the newly-crafted Diocesan Vision. Distilled as a written communication from Bishop Barnes, the vision included seven areas of concern – Youth, Evangelization, Unity in Diversity, Stewardship of Resources, Leadership, and Organizational Structures. +Father Bob Miller, also a member of the Planning Council, said those seven areas of concern had been identified and reflected upon with the parishes and schools of the Diocese during the first phase of the consultation.

The document unveiled on May 20 also included the now familiar 33-word statement of Vision: “We, the Church of San

Bernardino, are a community of believers in Jesus the Christ, called to impact family, neighborhood and society with the Gospel so that people’s lives are filled with hope.”

Fr. Miller, who was called home to God in 2017, and Sr. Nelson agree that the short statement was reflective of Bishop Barnes’ view of Church.

“It came from him,” Fr. Miller said in a 2017 interview. “That was really Bishop Barnes’ summary of what he saw in the process.”

The specific mention of where the Church would make its impact – family, neighborhood and society – was significant, Sr. Nelson said.

“He has always been a bishop who saw Church as being big and inclusive,” she said. “Church is where people are and where they do the work of the Gospel.”

At the May 20 Vesper Service, a scroll with the Bishop’s words was passed for-

ward from the back of the Cathedral by attending Catholics until it reached the Sanctuary where Bishop Barnes read it.

Following the release of the Diocesan Vision, which was printed in a small bilingual booklet and distributed in all parishes and schools, the Planning Council continued with the third and final phase of the consultation. It was designed to identify the action steps that would make the vision a reality. In December of 1997 Bishop Barnes announced five goals related to the previously identified areas of concern for the coming five years. They were to focus ministry on the needs of families; create a place in the local Church for youth; develop new ways for the faithful to share their time, talent and treasure; develop new lay ministry formation opportunities; and to build structures and systems that foster genuine dialogue and collaboration.

The third phase also produced Four Core Values designed to guide the ministerial and pastoral work of the Diocese. They are Hospitality, Faith-Sharing, Reconciliation and Collaboration.

Laura Lopez, now Director of Pastoral Planning for the Diocese, was just beginning ministry work in the Diocese at the time of the Visioning process. Until Bishop Barnes shared the Vision, she said she and others with whom she was working saw their ministry as only to other Hispanics.

“He said, you’re more than that,” Lopez said of how she heard Bishop Barnes’ message. “You belong to a big family that has a lot of different people who are all loved by God.”

“It was a big challenge for us. It pushed me to see things.”

Twenty years after the Diocesan Vision was first articulated, its concerns, dreams and call to unity are seen and lived. Fr. Miller cited the focus areas on Youth and on Unity in Diversity as being especially prophetic of what the Diocese has become.

“There’s still mileage to it,” he said in 2017. “It still fits what we need to do.”

**Thank you Bishop Gerald Barnes for your many years of service to our Diocese and to St. Bernardine Parish**



Bishop Gerald Barnes with Parish Staff of St. Bernardine – Photo 2008



The Office of Child and Youth Protection congratulates  
Most Rev. Bishop Emeritus Gerald R. Barnes on his  
retirement.

*Thank you for your years of service to God’s ministry and His people.*

*May you have a blessed retirement, knowing that your ministry*

*was an inspiration to us all.*

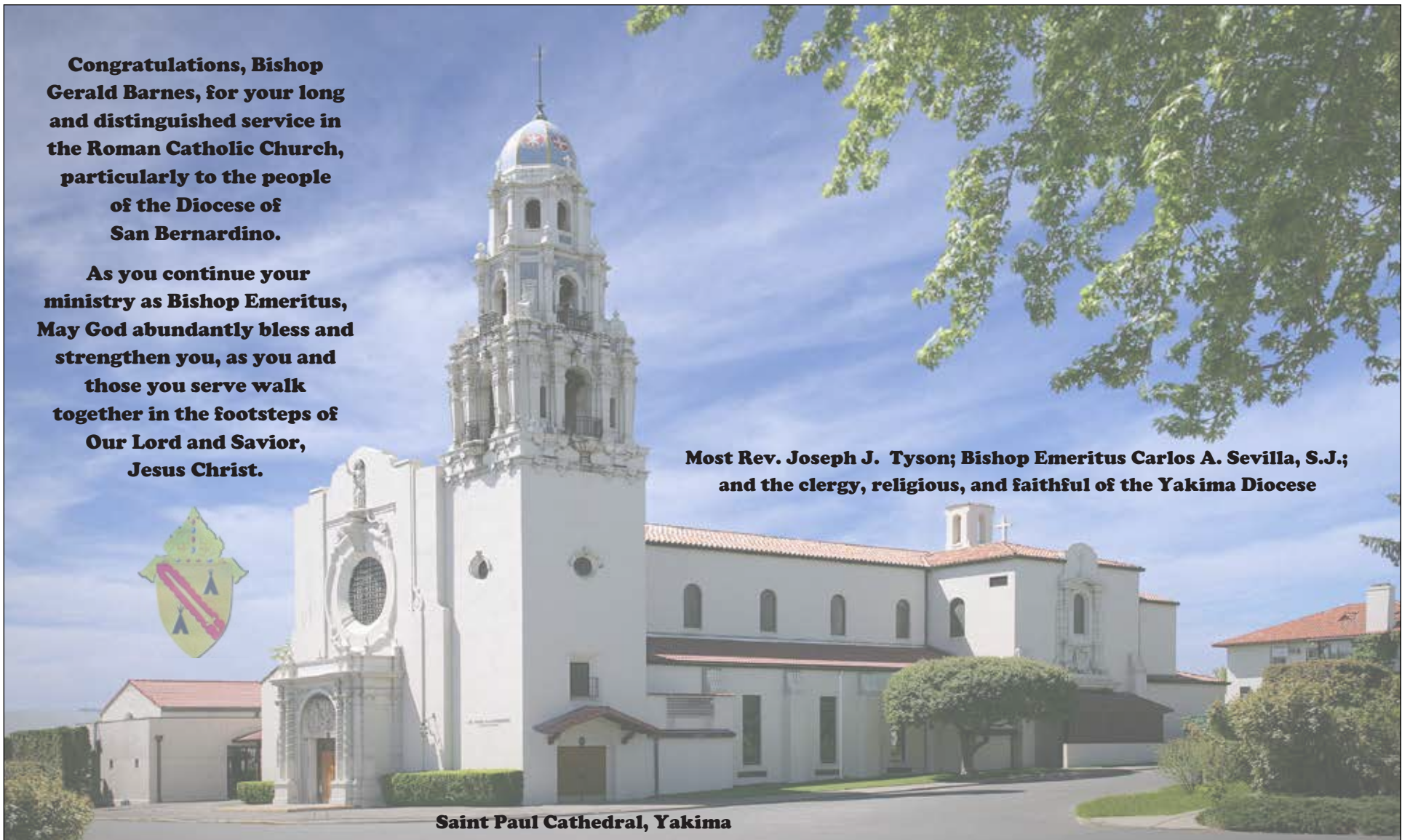
**Siempre Adelante!**



**Congratulations, Bishop Gerald Barnes, for your long and distinguished service in the Roman Catholic Church, particularly to the people of the Diocese of San Bernardino.**

**As you continue your ministry as Bishop Emeritus, May God abundantly bless and strengthen you, as you and those you serve walk together in the footsteps of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson; Bishop Emeritus Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J.; and the clergy, religious, and faithful of the Yakima Diocese**



**Saint Paul Cathedral, Yakima**



**EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM  
WESTERN USA LIEUTENANCY**

*Congratulates  
Sir Gerald Most Reverend Barnes, KC\*HS  
on his Retirement*

H.E. Dame Margaret Romano, Lieutenant

Dame Densy R. Chandra, DGCHS

Sir Greg M. Chandra, KGCHS

**San Bernardino Area Co-Councillors**

gmchandra08@gmail.com | 760.455.9345 • contact@eohsjwesternusa.org | 213.626.0776

[www.eohsjwesternusa.org](http://www.eohsjwesternusa.org)



**Bishop Barnes,  
 Congratulations on your  
 retirement. May God bless  
 you always.**



*St. Kateri  
 Tekakwitha,  
 Beaumont*



*St. Kateri  
 Tekakwitha,  
 Banning*



*St. Mary  
 Mission,  
 Banning*



***St. Kateri Tekakwitha  
 Catholic Community***

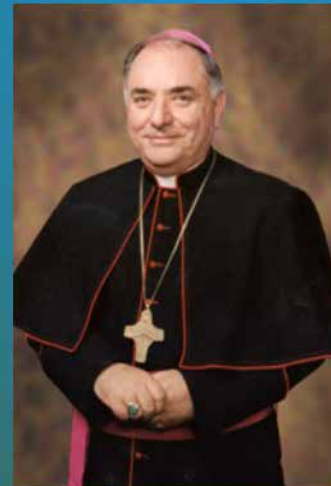
*St. Vincent Ferrer Church, Menifee*

**CONGRATULATIONS**

*Bishop Emeritus Gerald R. Barnes, DD*

on your

**RETIREMENT**



*On behalf of  
 Rev. Frederick  
 Costales, MS  
 and the parishioners  
 of St. Vincent Ferrer,  
 we would like to express  
 our heartfelt gratitude  
 for your dedication  
 and service to the  
 Diocese of  
 San Bernardino.  
 We pray that God will  
 bless you abundantly  
 with peace and joy for  
 years to come.*

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**BISHOP OSCAR CANTÚ AND  
 THE DIOCESE OF SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA  
 OFFER THEIR BEST WISHES TO**

*Bishop Gerald Barnes*  
**ON HIS RETIREMENT**

**AND THE FAITHFUL OF THE  
 DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO**



**F**ELLOWSHIP OF  
**C**ATHOLIC  
**C**HRISTIAN  
**W**OMEN®

***Bishop Barnes: We wish you  
 God's abundant blessing.  
 Thank you for your loving  
 support of our ministry over  
 the past 25 years.***

**The Fellowship of Catholic Christian Women (FCCW) ministry exists to  
 bring women together in the Spirit and to deepen each one's personal  
 relationship with God while fostering a faith-based community centered on  
 Christ Jesus. We invite you to join us for our current study.**



***Congratulations on your retirement, Bishop Barnes!***

***St. Anthony Catholic Church***

630 S. Santa Fe Ave. San Jacinto, CA 92583  
 Phone: (951) 654-7911  
 Fax: (951) 654-2309





Providence thanks

# Bishop Emeritus Gerald R. Barnes

for his legacy of service  
to the community.



# Bishop Barnes honored by Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHSJ), a prestigious international Catholic organization focused on works of charity and revitalization in the Holy Land, honored Bishop Emeritus Gerald Barnes in several ways this past year.

At a private ceremony in San Marino on Apr. 24, Bishop Barnes received the Gold Palm Award, given to “persons of flawless moral conduct, especially meritorious on behalf of the Order.” Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez, who is the local Grand Pryor of the EOHSJ, presented Bishop Barnes with the medal.

Perhaps more significantly, the reception area of a new Nursing School Building at Bethlehem University has been named in Bishop Barnes’ honor. This came about when Greg and Densy Chandra, who are parishioners of The Holy Name of Jesus in Redlands and a Knight and Dame of EOHSJ, respectively, sought to give Bishop Barnes an award in his retirement for his lifetime of support to EOHSJ.

Bishop Barnes was invested as a Knight of the Order in 1993, and now carries the title of Chaplain. He commends the EOHSJ for the work that they carry out in the Holy Land maintaining pilgrim sites and



**RECEIVING A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD** The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHSJ) honored Bishop Barnes (center) with the Gold Palm Award on Apr. 24. Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez, local Grand Pryor, presented him with the award at a private ceremony in San Marcos.

funding schools, hospitals and orphanages that benefit both Christians and Muslims.

“It’s a great work that that the organi-

zation has done, because it brings together not only the holy sites where Jesus walked and lived and died and rose, but it ties it into the living reality of the people because Jesus is still there in the lives of these people,” said Bishop Barnes.

“I saw the good work that [the EOHSJ] does, and so I’ve encouraged it. I’ve helped as much as I can to promote it here in the Diocese,” said Bishop Barnes.

Densy Chandra said that Bishop Barnes has been “very supportive to the causes of the Order.”

“We wanted to show our appreciation and to honor him for the many years of dedication and giving of himself to the lo-

cal and universal Church in the form of a project which will also benefit the people in the Holy Land,” said Chandra. “As members of the Order that is what we are missioned to do.”

The Chandras asked Bishop Barnes if there was a particular Holy Land charity that could be supported in his name as part of the award, and he chose Bethlehem University.

“I chose Bethlehem University because I think if we educate our people, Christian and Muslim, we’re going to have that peace and that respect,” said Bishop Barnes.

“Bishop Barnes has always seen that education gives hope for peace in the future,” Chandra said. “The vision of Bishop Barnes and this opportunity came as a perfect match.”

Dame Sue Beidle, another local EOHSJ member, led the efforts to raise the \$30,000 donation to Bethlehem University. Over the two-year-long fundraising campaign, Beidle focused on both large and small donations. “Her vision was to involve as many members [as possible] to participate in the project as a show of collective solidarity to honor Bishop Barnes,” said Chandra.

Cardinal Foley Hall, the new nursing building, was dedicated this September. The EOHSJ Western USA Lieutenancy/San Bernardino Council is hosting a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October 2022, where there will be a special ceremony to dedicate the Bishop Gerald Barnes Reception Area.

The EOHSJ is the only lay institution of the Vatican charged with the task of providing for the needs of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land.



**God bless you always, Bishop Barnes.  
Thank you for your faithful service.**



**From the Lopez Family: Ramona, David, Anthony Jr., Theresa, Msgr. Gerry  
In Memoriam, Mr. and Mrs. +Tony A. and +Sarah V. Lopez, Sr.**



**HONORING BISHOP BARNES** The reception area of a new Nursing School building at Bethlehem University has been named after Bishop Gerald Barnes. The new building was dedicated this September, and there will be a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October 2022 where there will be a special ceremony to dedicate the reception area.



## The Coat of Arms of Bishop Gerald R. Barnes

The Coat of Arms of Bishop Gerald Richard Barnes displays a field of red with a band of silver at the top. Bishop chooses red as the color of love, zeal, and fiesta, the celebration of life. He thinks of red as the color of the Southwest sunset, a reminder of his birth in Arizona, rearing in Southern California, and years of service in South Texas. The color silver in the chief of the shield acknowledges his ancestral roots: his grandparents and great-grandparents worked the silver mines of Northern Mexico (Sonora) and Southern Arizona.

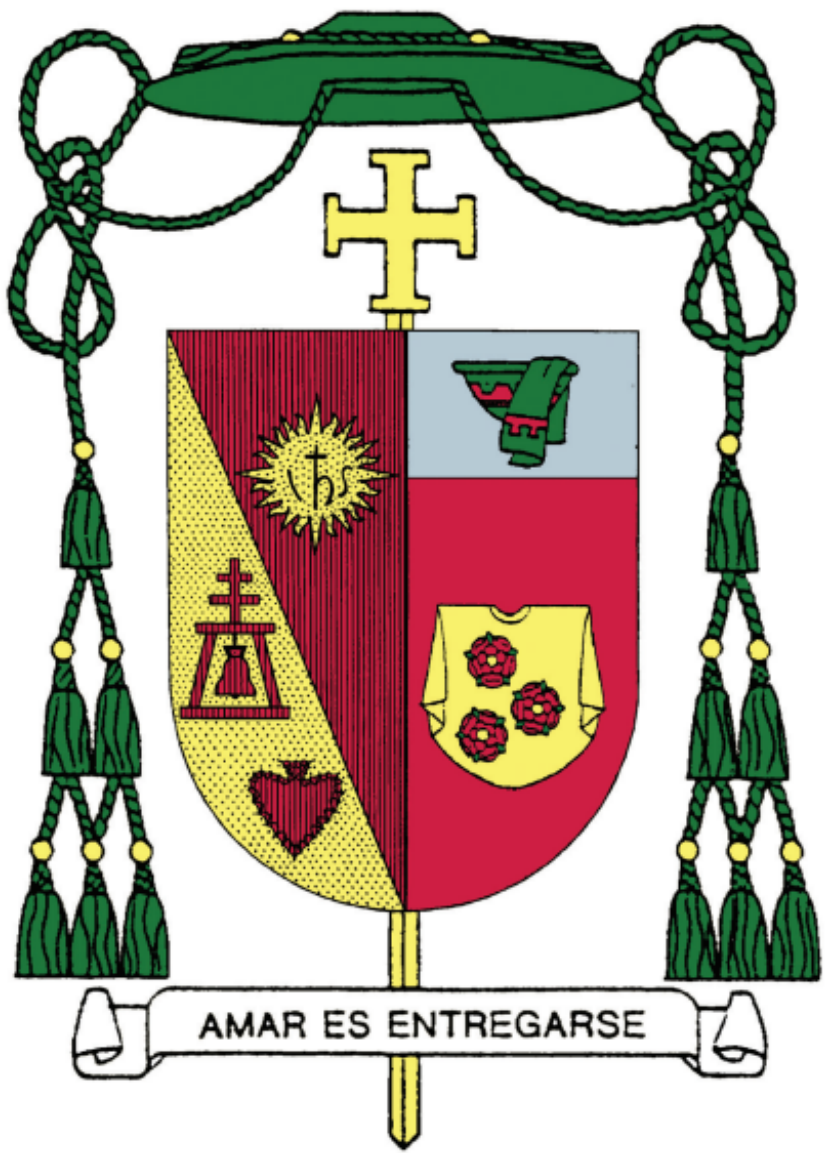
The basin and towel are symbols of service, following the example of Jesus who washed the feet of the apostles. “As I have done, so you must do” (John 13:15). The green and red design of the basin and towel speaks again of the Southwest and emphasizes Bishop’s roots and his ministry to the people of the region. In using this symbol, Bishop also pays tribute to his mother and father who were models of hospitality and service, always ready to welcome into their home the stranger and those in need.

On the base of the shield is blazoned a tilma in gold and three red roses with green leaves and gold seeds. This is the tilma of Juan Diego spilling out the roses sent by Our Lady. In displaying this charge, Bishop places himself at the service of and under the protection of the Virgin of Guadalupe, proclaiming himself a Son of Guadalupe.

The motto further emphasizes Bishop’s aspiration to give himself in wholehearted service to the people through his priestly and episcopal vocation. He repeats the theme of his presbyteral ordination, *Amar es Entregarse*, “Love is the total giving of oneself.”

Behind the shield is a gold sword with a hilt in the shape of a cross. Above the shield are the green hat and six tassels on each side denoting the rank of Bishop.

The Coat of Arms of Bishop Barnes is a combination of his personal Coat of Arms and the Coat of Arms of the Diocese of San Bernardino.



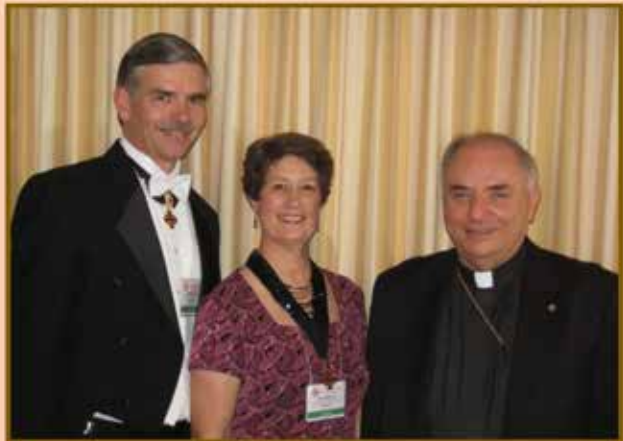
### *Bishop Barnes ~*

*We are grateful for your*

- \* 29+ years of Episcopal service in our Diocese
- \* 25 years of Episcopal leadership in our Diocese
- \* So many years of friendship and support

*Wishing you God's abundant blessings, good health, and many years of happy retirement!*

*Susie and Rich Herbst*



## *Congratulations!*

# *Most Rev. Gerald Barnes*

*on your Retirement*

*The Mexican American Catholic College is grateful for your servant leadership and ongoing support.*

*May Jesus through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, grant you peace and joy on your new journey.*

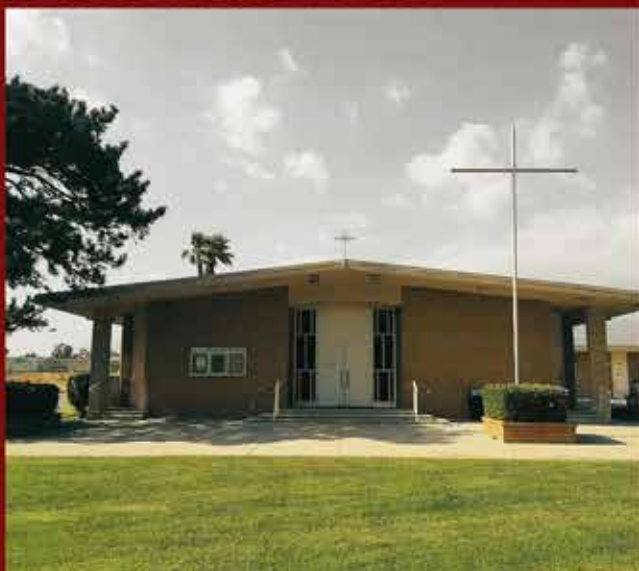
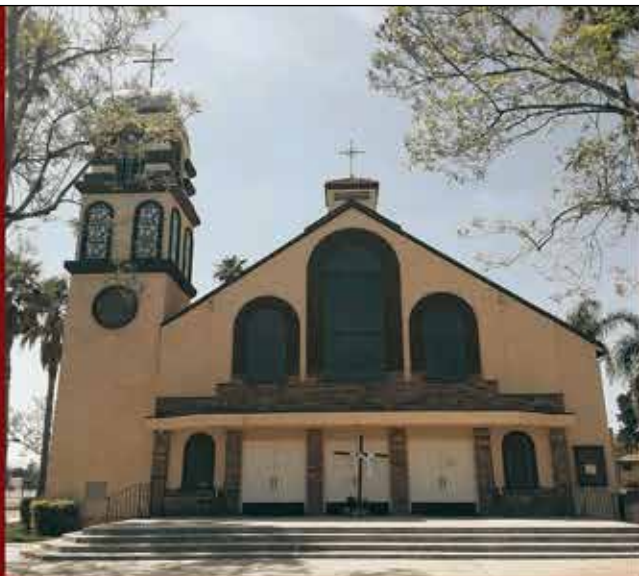




**THE MOST REVEREND JOSEPH V. BRENNAN, D.D.**

and the Pastoral Center Staff  
of the Diocese of Fresno  
offer our prayers and best wishes to

**BISHOP EMERITUS GERALD BARNES**



Congratulations on your retirement

*Most Reverend Gerald Barnes*

We thank you for your years of leadership!

May God bless you always.



*The Roman Catholic Community of*  
**ST. JOHN XXIII**

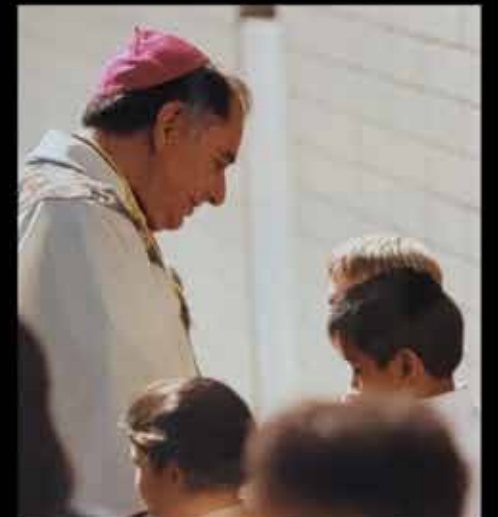


*St. Christopher Parish, Moreno Valley,*

would like to express our deep gratitude and sincerest congratulations to

*Bishop Emeritus Gerald R. Barnes*

on his retirement. We wish him blessings on this next chapter of his life.



**CONGRATULATIONS BISHOP BARNES  
ON YOUR RETIREMENT!**





*Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
Ontario,*

extends our prayers and blessings to

*Bishop Emeritus  
Gerald R. Barnes*

on his retirement. Congratulations!



*Bishop Gerald R. Barnes*

"Love is the total giving of oneself" are not simply words that were spoken nearly 2000 years ago, but in your service as a Priest and then as Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino, you, Most Reverend Bishop Barnes, have truly incarnated these words in your service, not only to the people of San Antonio and San Bernardino, but to all who needed the tender and compassionate face of the Lord, the Lord's helping hand and the Lord's accompanying feet, that through you and your leadership, found that face, those hands and feet. Thank you for incarnating the Lord to us all, especially the vulnerable. May the Lord bless you abundantly and one day grant you entrance into our true home and may Our Lady of Hope and St. Joseph continue to guide you to their Son, Jesus Christ.

**Our Lady of Hope Parish, San Bernardino**

6885 Del Rosa Ave | 1000 N Valencia Ave





## Thank you for leaving a legacy of growth and improvement

By Bishop Rutilio J. del Riego

Bishop Barnes, today is a day of thanksgiving to God for the innumerable blessings we and the Diocese of San Bernardino have received through you and through your episcopal ministry. Truly, you have lived well the motto you chose for your episcopal ministry: "Amar es Entregarse."

Now is the time to celebrate our unity in diversity, something you fostered incessantly since you came to San Bernardino. You called us to accept each other for who we are, with our own culture and varied ways in which we express our faith. BICM (Building Intercultural Competence for Ministry) was one of the means to impress this attitude in all who minister in the Diocese. You have done this also through the Department of Apostolic and Ethnic Affairs.

Bishop Barnes, you have offered help and fostered in us the desire to care for the poor, the immigrants, the elderly, the youth, the sick and the prisoners. You did this in different ways. Let me mention the strengthening of the Department of Life, Dignity and Justice and the Office of Ministry to Young Catholics, your support of service agencies and institutions like Faith in Action, the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, and other community organizing groups.

A very important contribution you offered to the Diocese was your support for and the transformation of the Straling Leadership Institute into the Department of Ministry Formation Institute for theological and pastoral formation of ecclesial ministers, offering the classes in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. (The opportunities for ministry formation have expanded with the collaboration with the Loyola Marymount and Santa Clara University.) Let me mention also the strengthening of the permanent formation for priests, and the offering of the Permanent Diaconate



**BROTHER BISHOPS** Bishop Gerald Barnes (left) and Auxiliary Bishop Rutilio del Riego pose for a photo at the Bishop's Dinner in 2015.

Program in English and in Spanish.

There are other branches of your legacy, but I don't want to fail to mention the gradual increase of lay personnel, especially women in the staff of the Diocesan Pastoral Center, appointing them to positions like chancellor, vice chancellor, department head, and office director.

Let me mention the continuous encouragement of fuller participation in the liturgy by the laypeople. In most parishes the Eucharist is celebrated in English and another language. The diocesan liturgical celebrations are mostly bilingual and, at times,

multilingual.

Thank you for your high degree of consultation especially through the Diocesan Boards and Councils, and for the establishment of the Department of Pastoral Planning.

One more important legacy that I believe you leave is the especially well-prepared Episcopal Visitations of parishes.

And last, but not least, are the dedication of eight new parish churches in the Diocese, and the opening of a new facility for the Serra House of Formation for diocesan seminarians.

Bishop Rutilio J. del Riego is the Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of San Bernardino.

## A true and genuine Shepherd

By Cardinal Roger Mahony

Several years ago, while Pope Francis was in Colombia for a pastoral visit, he met with brother Jesuit priests. What he told them was extraordinary:

"The people of God have a good sense of smell. And sometimes our task as pastors is to be behind the people. A pastor has to take up all three positions: in front to mark out the road, in the middle, to know it, and at the back to ensure nobody falls behind and to let the flock seek the road ... and the sheep smell a good pasture. A pastor has to move continually between these three positions." (Pope Francis, Cartagena, Colombia, Sept. 10, 2017)

When I first read that passage, I immediately thought of Bishop Gerald Barnes, the Bishop of San Bernardino.

Since 1992, Bishop Barnes has been

that true and genuine Shepherd after the heart, mind and soul of Jesus, the first great and Good Shepherd.

I join my prayers and celebration of this extraordinary Shepherd and Bishop who has guided the Diocese of San Bernardino through extraordinary growth and pastoral development over the years!

May God grant him many more joyous years in our midst!

Cardinal Roger Mahony is the Archbishop Emeritus of Los Angeles.



**Cardinal Roger Mahony**

## Ad multos annos

By Msgr. Donald S. Webber

There is an ancient Latin phrase that priests share among themselves as a sort of blessing: "Ad multos annos." It is translated from in Latin as "For many years."

We can look back on the ministry of Bishop Barnes and be thankful for



**Msgr. Donald S. Webber**

the many years of his commitment and leadership in the Diocese of San Bernardino. We offer him our prayers of appreciation and gratitude.

And we can look forward and say *Ad multos annos* for his future years. We ask God to grant him many more years of joy, of new opportunities and of good health. *Ad multos annos* Bishop Barnes!

Monsignor Donald S. Webber served as the Vicar General from 1991 to 2000.



# Bishop Barnes: A gift to the people of God

By Fr. Romy Seleccion, MS

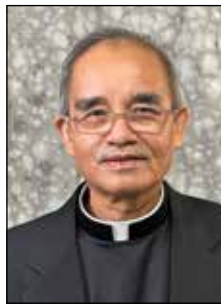
Bishop Emeritus Gerald R. Barnes is a **GIFT** to the Diocese of San Bernardino and to the people of God as well. The word **GIFT** isn't an ordinary word; it's extraordinary, and loaded with spiritual treasures.

The word **GIFT**'s letters reveal Bishop Barnes' character as a spiritual leader:

**G is generosity!** Bishop Barnes' heart is a generous one - locally and globally.

Globally because his International Sacrificial Giving Grant (ISGG) has served many organizations in the third world countries.

It caters for the "people in the peripheries" ("poor and marginalized")



Fr. Romy Seleccion, MS

to regain their human dignity as created in God's image and likeness. Some La Salette Missionaries' ministries in the Philippines were beneficiaries of ISGG.

**I is identity!** Bishop Barnes' motto "Amar es entregarse (Love is the total giving of oneself)" reflects his identity as a servant leader: an architect of hope and not despair; a creator of collaboration and not division; and always one to pursue total self-giving over self-fulfillment.

**F is family!** Bishop Barnes values family and community. He always asks the question, "Who is not represented in the table?" His heart always whispers, "There is always room for one more!" For him,

family is "belongingness."

**T is transformation!** Bishop Barnes is a transformer, a game changer. He initiated programs that call for laity's empowerment. How beautiful it is to see the face of the Diocese's employment force as a collage of different colors, languages, ethnicity, laity, religious and clergy working together in the spirit of synodality.

Bishop Gerald Barnes, Salamat po!

Fr. Romy Seleccion, MS, is the Episcopal Vicar of the San Bernardino Pastoral Region and Pastor of St. Christopher in Moreno Valley.

## A very spiritual and dedicated Bishop

By Fr. Santos Ortega

2021 has been a very special year for me as I celebrate my 25th priest ordination anniversary and reflect on the people who have played a tremendous role in my priestly life. One of those people is definitely Bishop Emeritus Gerald Barnes. I am very fortunate not only to be the first Central American ordained a priest for the Diocese of San Bernardino, but also the first Diocesan Priest to be ordained by Bishop Barnes (May 31, 1996) a few months after he officially became the Ordinary Bishop of the Diocese.

In the years that I have been here, I feel that I have been truly blessed to have had the companionship and support of a very spiritual and dedicated Bishop who has given an exceptionally fine service to our Diocese of San Bernardino. I learned from his practical approach to various problems and issues, his strong approach to the very

basic tenets of our faith. Of course, we know that he brought a deep love of the Holy Eucharist and a sense of celebration to our Diocese, and a principle focus of his was to create in us an appreciation of the sacraments and their celebrations.

Bishop Barnes, I can't express enough my thanks and gratitude, and I will be forever indebted to you for your help and support throughout my 25 years of priesthood.

Fr. Santos Ortega is the pastor of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini in Yucaipa and was the first priest ordained by Bishop Barnes.



Fr. Santos Ortega

## Meeting Bishop Barnes for the first time

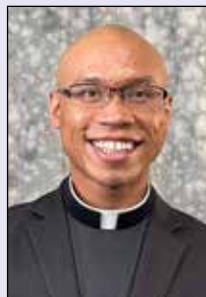
By Fr. Gino Galley

The very first time I had ever met Bishop Barnes was at the Rite of Election at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral in 2005. I had just barely turned 18 years old and was on the journey of faith through Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) to become a Christian and a Catholic for the first time. As I awkwardly wrote my name in the Book of the Elect, I remember feeling a rush of both excitement and nervousness while standing under the observant gaze of His Excellency. But these feelings quickly transformed into a spirit of calm and paternal affirmation as he firmly shook my hand while flashing his iconic grin and whimsical wink. Little did I know that he would once again give me that same handshake, grin and wink 13 years later,

after ordaining me as a Priest of Jesus Christ on May 18, 2019.

This encounter with our Bishop Emeritus taught me that, through the grace of our common baptism, we are all called to be prophets with more than just mere words, but also by making the strenuous effort to be fully present to another, even if for a brief moment.

Fr. Gino Galley is a Parochial Vicar at The Holy Name of Jesus, Redlands



Fr. Gino Galley

## Bishop Barnes helped us to experience the presence of Jesus

By Msgr. Gerard Lopez

On reflecting on the many years of Bishop Barnes' stewardship of our Diocese of San Bernardino, Chapter 10 of the Gospel of St. John comes to mind quite vividly, as we hear Jesus describe the ministry of the Good Shepherd. I think especially of verse 11 in which Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Bishop Barnes was tireless in his ministry as the Good Shepherd, attending to the spiritual and practical needs of our diverse and dynamic Diocese, always laying down his life for our wellbeing.

It was a blessing to have been an eyewitness to the many ways in which he fulfilled the role of Good Shepherd to parishioners, school children, priests and deacons, religious, lay leaders and especially the Diocesan Pastoral Center staff who represented him in our daily work on behalf of his service as Diocesan Bishop.

He accompanied several generations of Catholics from 1992 to 2020, guiding us through the storms of 9/11 and the sexual abuse crisis and helping us to celebrate many joyful memories such as the 25th and 40th anniversaries of our Diocese.

Most wonderfully, we thank Bishop Barnes for guiding us through our Vision and Mission Process culminating in our Diocesan Vision Statement that now guides us in our important

journey of our Diocesan Synod Process of Communion, Participation and Mission.

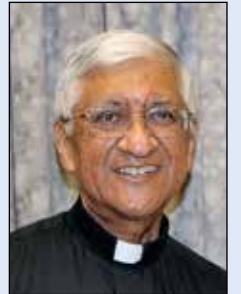
Through his many words of wisdom and his wonderful sense of humor, he helped us all to experience in person the presence of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

We wish Bishop Barnes many happy and joyful years in his retirement. I personally thank him for being a great model of the priest in the image of Jesus, the one High Priest, who gave his life for all humanity.

May Our Lord, the Good Shepherd, grant Bishop Barnes a time of rest, good health and the good company of his family and friends as he now takes time to perform a good inventory of the many blessings that the Lord has given him.

Well done, good and faithful Shepherd! Thank you for helping us to become a Diocese and People Filled with Hope!

Msgr. Gerard Lopez is the Vicar General for the Diocese of San Bernardino.



Msgr. Gerard Lopez





"AMAR ES ENTREGARSE"

*Thank you  
 Bishop  
 Barnes*



Sacred Heart Parish School, Rancho Cucamonga, appreciates everything you have done for Catholic education in the Diocese of San Bernardino. You are a blessing.

**THE HOLY NAME  
 OF JESUS  
 CATHOLIC  
 COMMUNITY IS**

**GRATEFUL**  
*agradecido*

FOR THE SERVICE OF  
 BISHOP  
 GERALD R. BARNES

Blessings on your  
 retirement!

*Most Reverend Bishop Gerald Barnes, D.D.*

I, and the Faithful of the Diocese of Stockton, wish you warm congratulations for your 29 years of Episcopal service to the people of the Diocese of San Bernardino. Your faithfulness to the call to serve the Church as Bishop has truly been a blessing for all. May God continue to bless you with his grace and mercy!

Your Brother in Christ,

+ Myron J. Cotta  
 Roman Catholic Bishop of Stockton

*Congratulations Bishop Barnes On Your Retirement!*  
**May God Continue To Bless You.**

**FROM THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF  
 ST. JOAN OF ARC, BLYTHE**



# Bishop Barnes' legacy in Catholic education marked by presence, support

Bishop Gerald Barnes often noted that the character development provided by the Catholic schools of the Diocese was as critical as the academic rigor they offered.

Through his support of fundraising events, scholarships and endowments, Bishop Barnes aimed to make Catholic education available to more and more young people.

"Catholic schools transform lives," Bishop Barnes said on the occasion of Catholic Schools Week in 2018. "They don't give up on people. They accompany them. They believe that the children will succeed."

The Bishop's Golf Classic, started in 2001 to benefit the Catholic Schools of the Diocese, has become the largest fundraising event held by the Diocese, generating about \$300,000 annually. In addition, the Catholic Schools Endowment established under Bishop Barnes' leadership distributes about \$240,000 every year in tuition assistance.

In 2012, he established the Bishop's Scholarship, which annually provides a four-year scholarship to four eighth graders to attend each of the four Catholic high schools in the Diocese.

"He truly believed that Catholic education is a value that all families should be able to access," said Dr. Samuel Torres, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese. "Under Bishop Barnes leadership our Catholic schools grew in stature and stability."

The Bishop also made himself present at Catholic schools on a regular basis, celebrating Mass with seniors at the Catholic high schools each year, visiting schools as part of his Episcopal Visitation program and celebrating a back-to-school Mass each August with Catholic school principals, teachers and staff.

Angela Williams, Principal of Sacred Heart Academy, recalls that when Bishop



**SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS** Bishop Barnes gathered with students of Holy Rosary Academy, San Bernardino, in 2008 to record a video message against the rising problem of bullying. In his 25 years as Ordinary Bishop he maintained a consistent presence at the Catholic schools of the Diocese, always eager to hear what students had to say.

Barnes would visit the campus, he often made a point of meeting with the eighth-grade class privately.

"He really wanted to know what the older kids had to say," said Williams, who called Bishop Barnes' leadership "deeply thoughtful and wise."

"He really cared about them and wanted to know their thoughts."

The national trend of declining enrollment in Catholic schools was felt in the Diocese during Bishop Barnes' Episcopacy and it led to painful decisions to

close four local Catholic schools; Queen of Angels, Riverside; St. Mary Regional School, Apple Valley; St. Anthony, San Bernardino and Precious Blood, Banning.

"Though it hurts and though we may look for flaws in the decision making, the timing and the process, we must look at and respond to the reality," Bishop Barnes wrote in a letter to the St. Anthony School community announcing the school's closure due to dwindling enrollment and financial insolvency.

In 2007, Bishop Barnes addressed

the Catholic school communities of the Diocese directly with a powerful video message against the rising problem of bullying. It was the beginning of an anti-bullying campaign and curriculum in the Catholic schools.

"Mean, disrespectful words and fighting will not be tolerated," Bishop Barnes said in his video message to elementary school students. "You are always God's children, so learn and play together in friendship."



LEFT: Bishop Barnes was a regular visitor at the Catholic schools of the Diocese. RIGHT: The Bishop's Golf Classic, founded in 2001, generates about \$300,000 each year in support of Catholic schools.



## Nna Ora (Father of All) of San Bernardino

By David Okonkwo

There could not have been a better bishop for the time you were the Ordinary of the Diocese of San Bernardino. You were second to none! All the troubled times and the good and not so good times, you led in definitive manner that was not questioned. Your foresightedness has brought our Diocese to the forefront of the nation in many areas.

Beginning with the name of our ministry (Catholics of African Descent), you sought to include all the people of African descent in a ministry that will care for all people of African descent just like the rest of the ethnicities in our Diocese. Though not all were enthusiastic about it at the time, they came to embrace it in the end. And with that, the ministry slowly opened up for all African descent communities.

The opportunities you opened for African priests studying in Rome or Germany who sought for summer opportunities to serve has given the Diocese so many advantages to fill the needs in our parishes with priests of different ethnicities and has brewed this golden pot of spiritual gifts from all over the world in our parishes.

Your care for all the ethnicities shows. You empowered the directors of the eth-

nic ministries to represent you in carrying on their ministries within their ethnicities, which directly brought about the ethnicities' evangelization journey full-force.

In hiring me as the director for the African descent Catholics ministry ten years ago, you threw all your support behind me to lead this ministry forward and supported every effort the ministry was making. Through your urging, we brought back our annual Black History Month Masses and the ecumenical engagement with the black pastors' association in San Bernardino. The ministry exposed you to better understanding of the Igbo community and their love of you, which led them to bestow on you the title of Nna Ora (Father of All) of San Bernardino.

We thank you and thank God who gave you His wisdom and insight to govern our Diocese for many years. May God bless you, keep you strong and healthy and give you a long life. Muchismos gratias Bishop Barnes, you are blessed!

---

David Okonkwo is the Director of the Office of the Ministry to Catholics of African Descent.



## You are always our shepherd



By Uyên Như Nguyễn

Congratulations Bishop Barnes! On behalf of the Vietnamese Catholic community in the San Bernardino Diocese, we want to thank you for your support and guidance. Your caring personality and detail-orientated charisma instituted a long faithful reign in our Diocese. You started and supported the ethnic communities from “nothing” to now a multicultural Diocese instituted in faith.

Your accomplishments are beyond words but can be seen by the events and ministries that are available in this diocese. We hope to have your presence in future events because you are always our shepherd under any title. God bless you on your retirement, Bishop Barnes.



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Uyên Như Nguyễn is the secretary of the Vietnamese Catholic Community in the Diocese of San Bernardino.

## Maraming Salamat, Bishop Barnes



By Cynthia Ronquillo

A trailblazer. An ardent defender of justice, peace, human rights, diversity and integrity of creation. A great mentor who inspired individuals and groups through his vision and leadership. A great listener, attuned to serious concerns and issues of his flock. A most interculturally competent individual who embodied his servant leadership motto of “Amar Es Entregarse.” The architect of the Filipino Seminarian Endowment Fund, emphasizing that the formation of those who are called to the priesthood is a priority.

A chronological timeline from the inception of the Filipino Ministry

of the Diocese of San Bernardino to the present does not do justice to what this beloved bishop means to the Filipino community. For the past 27 years, Bishop Barnes has seen our growth from a handful of individuals to organized Filipino ministries active in 45 parishes.

As a sign of our gratitude for his belief in us, we offer our continued efforts to share our Filipino religious traditions and culture in order to fulfill his vision of a culturally rich, caring and faith-filled diocese.

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Cynthia Ronquillo is the Chair of the Filipino Ministry in the Diocese of San Bernardino.



## Thank you for your faithfulness, Bishop Barnes

By Petra Alexander

It is so difficult to send off a leader whom we dearly care for and call “one of our own!” We are glad that your well-deserved rest has arrived, but we are also pained by your absence.

Each bishop receives at his ordination a staff that identifies his pastoral work, a mitre that designates him a teacher and formator to his people, and a ring espousing him to his diocesan community. How faithful Bishop Barnes has been to this union!

For our Diocese, he tirelessly journeyed through countless trips, meetings, interviews and celebrations, always with true priestly zeal.

How many roads have been opened, supported by the firmness of a staff that is evidenced by its firm rock, our Blessed Virgin Mary! Bishop Barnes has poured his personal gifts into our midst, and we are witnesses to how he has been blessed with firm hope; the same hope that all Catholics receive at the time of our baptism and that which Bishop Barnes received doubly.



This distinguishes him as a missionary disciple at the head of his people. Hispanics in this Diocese and elsewhere in the United States have experienced what St. Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews states of Christ: “He is not ashamed to call them ‘brothers’” (Hebrews 2:11).

Our beloved Bishop Barnes will remain in the historical memory of the Hispanic people as a true prophet; his heart extending compassion and blessings, and his voice used to speak up and ask for respect for human dignity. There is no doubt that those around grasped the face of the suffering Christ within him. Our gratitude and our prayers to God for abundant blessings upon him.

Petra Alexander is the Director of the Office of Hispanic Affairs.

## Thank you for your missionary heart



By Fr. Earl Henley, M.S.C.

Bishop Barnes, Miyu – Hello to you in the Luiseno greeting. Thank you for the Office of Native American Ministry you gave us. Our six communities/reservations are growing. Thank you for your missionary heart shown to our Indian people. Thank you for dream-continuing.

The communities of St. Joseph, Soboba; The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Tor-

res Martinez; St. Rose, Santa Rosa; Our Lady of the Snows, Cahuilla; St. Mary, Morongo; and St. Michael, Pechanga, send you our prayers and love.

Fr. Earl Henley, M.S.C., ministers to various Indian reservations and is also the Director of the Office of Native American Ministry.



**Congratulations! Congratulations! Congratulations!**

Dear Bishop Emeritus Gerald Barnes,

We the parishioners of St. Joseph, St. Philip Neri, St. Madeleine, & Our Lady of the Desert would like to join the entire faithful of San Bernardino Diocese to thank you for your amazing leadership and also honor your retirement.

We want to use this occasion to thank you for your many years of your peerless leadership. There is no doubt that you possess a rare combination of vision, and creativity; crucial qualities for an effective leader.

It is amazing that you have already enjoyed one year in your retirement.

Again, we are very honored to join the entire faithful of our diocese, the Inland Catholic BYTE and El Compás Católico in honoring your retirement.

Congratulations on a job well done and a retirement well deserved.

On behalf of the Parishes of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Barstow, CA

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Lenwood, CA St. Madeleine Sophia Baratt, Trona, CA

& Our Lady of the Desert Mission, Baker, CA



## Bishop Barnes mandated program to boost intercultural skills and address racism

As one of the most culturally diverse regions in the nation, it only made sense that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops would call on the Diocese of San Bernardino ten years ago to help pilot its new Building Intercultural Competencies for Ministers (BICM) program.

The effort began in April 2011 with a three-day retreat at El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands, where nearly 40 diocesan and parish leaders received the five-module training. Months later, four people from the Diocese traveled to Baltimore, Maryland to be trained in how to teach the program.

Soon after, Bishop Barnes made the decision that the training would be mandatory for all full-time parish and diocesan employees. Auxiliary Bishop Rutilio del Riego oversaw the launching of BICM in the Diocese. A core team to teach the five modules was assembled, consisting of Vice Chancellors Deacon Michael Jelley and Maria Echeverria, Pastoral Planning Director Laura Lopez, Ministry of Educational Services Director +Joyce Drake, Communications Director John Andrews, Filipino Ministry leader Naida Castro and David Okonkwo, Director of the Diocesan Ministry to Catholics of African Descent.



**MEETING OF CULTURES** At Bishop Barnes' direction, the Diocese of San Bernardino was one of four dioceses that piloted the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Building Intercultural Competencies for Ministers (BICM). It began with a retreat at El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands in April 2011, attended by Bishop Barnes, Auxiliary Bishop Rutilio del Riego (pictured) and nearly 40 diocesan and parish leaders.

Bishop Barnes said he felt the BICM program was a top priority because while there are many different cultures present

in the Diocese, there is a need for greater integration and shared leadership and decision making among the different groups in parish life.

"When we have this meeting of cultures, that's an opportunity for us to evangelize one another," Bishop Barnes said during a 2020 interview with Wordnet Television. "And the Church has always done that; it's one of the great successes of the Catholic Church is that everybody belongs."

The training's first module celebrates and articulates the Church's multicultural nature and theology, the second seeks to define the elements of culture, the third looks at the significantly different perspectives that cultures bring to the table in working together in ministry, the fourth calls participants to confront prejudice and

racism in church life, and the fifth presents a series of movements to better integrate all cultures into parish life and leadership.

"He realized the benefits that can be gained from it," Echeverria said of Bishop Barnes' promotion of the BICM program. "The self-discovery and learning are what makes us who we are."

"We all have our own perspective on things. We don't have think alike and act alike in order to work together."

On the issue of racism, Bishop Barnes has provided powerful messages during moments of intense racial division in the nation. In a moment of stunning humility, the Bishop identified himself during his keynote talk at the 2015 Combined Vicariate meeting as a "recovering racist." During a virtual Mass in June 2020, following the killing of George Floyd, Bishop Barnes called racism the "original sin" of the nation.

"It's not only in our heart but it's imbedded in the structures of our society, and it needs to be confronted," he said during his homily. "Who's going to do that if not the Spirit that resides in us?"

To date, 2,061 people have received BICM training. It has been offered annually or bi-annually at the Diocesan Pastoral Center every year as a three-day training. Beginning in 2018, a condensed version of the training has been offered for parish volunteer ministers in seven different parishes.

"It was thought-provoking and heavy because it was filled with truths," said Diocesan Information Technology Services Director Ed Jabo, who attended the most recent BICM this fall, "truths that we don't want to acknowledge."

In his retirement Bishop Barnes remains active on committees at both the diocesan and state level to address racism in Church life.

## Upbringing

*Continued from page 6*

darted out in front of their car forcing his dad to slam on the brakes.

"I said, 'Look at that bum!' My mother turns around and looks at me and says, 'that's someone's son,'" said Bishop Barnes. "I saw a bum and she saw someone's son. She saw what was really there."

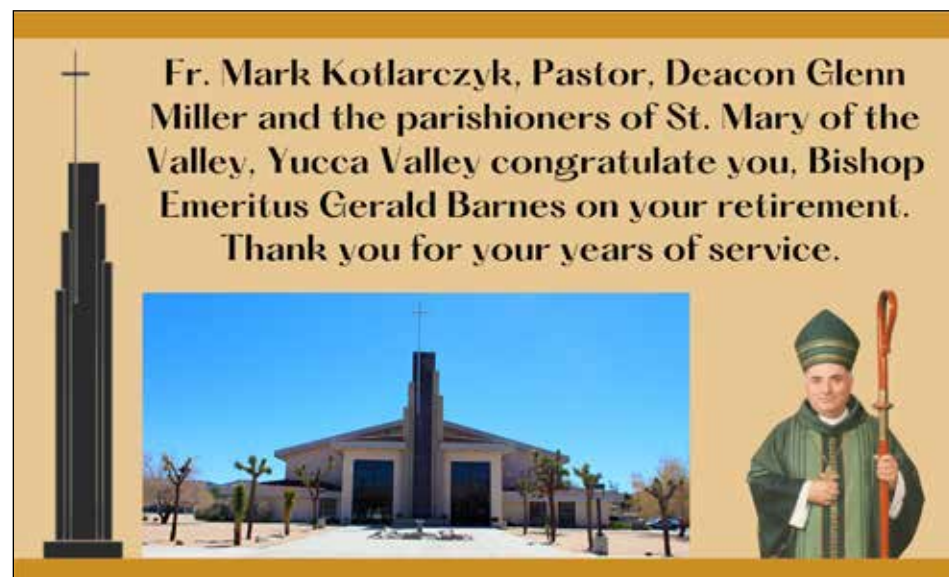
Up until their deaths, Bishop Barnes says his parents continued their legacy of faith and charity. So in 2017, on his 25th Episcopal Anniversary, Bishop Barnes launched the George Ruben Barnes and Aurora Celaya Barnes Seminarian Endowment Fund. When the Bishop was a seminarian himself, he wanted his parents to know how their way of living proved the very existence of God. He wrote them each a letter expressing the important lessons he had learned from their example.

"I knew there was a God of forgiveness because I remember you (mother) forgiving so many times ... There was never a grudge, an act of vengeance," wrote Bishop Barnes. "I know there's a God for the downtrodden, the little and lost people because I learned from you, Dad. You cared for people."



**Gerald Barnes on the day of his First Holy Communion in 1951**

Natalie Romano is a freelance writer and a parishioner of The Holy Name of Jesus in Redlands.





# Bishop Barnes held key leadership positions at state and national level

For a Bishop, Episcopal service extends beyond the borders of his Diocese.

That was certainly the case in Bishop Barnes' 28 years as a Bishop in the Diocese of San Bernardino. As a member of the California Catholic Conference of Bishops (CCC) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), he served on numerous committees addressing a wide range of issues from lay ministry to ecumenical affairs to migration.

One of his highest profile assignments was a three-year term as the Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration and Refugee Services. His leadership of that committee came at a time of intense advocacy by the Church to federal lawmakers to pass comprehensive immigration reform. He traveled multiple times to Capitol Hill to meet with such lawmakers as the late Sen. Ted Kennedy and Congressman John Boehner, who would later become Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Bishop Barnes was also a pioneering leader at the national level in Hispanic Affairs Ministry. He served as Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Hispanic Affairs (1997-99). During that time, he led the committee to plan and propose the



**NATIONAL IMPACT** Bishop Barnes was a driving force in Hispanic ministry at the national level, chairing the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Hispanic Affairs Committee and later the Hispanic Affairs Subcommittee. While in those posts he was a key architect of the Encuentro 2000 and V Encuentro gatherings (pictured).

fourth National Encuentro.

Encuentro is a two-year process of missionary activity, consultation, leadership development and pastoral discernment in parishes, dioceses and episcopal regions that culminates with a national event. Its

primary outcome is to discern pastoral practices and priorities to impact the quality of ministry among Hispanic/Latino Catholics, under the leadership of the U.S. bishops.

"I initiated the process through the

committee and then had to bring it to the body of bishops," Bishop Barnes recalled of the birth of what became Encuentro 2000. "[They] listened to the rationale for this Encuentro and voted to support it."

A decade later, when Bishop Barnes began his term as the Chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs, the idea of a Fifth National Encuentro surfaced. Once again, he played a key role in its planning and approval by the body of bishops. When the V Encuentro began in 2017 Bishop Barnes was tabbed to serve as liaison and lead bishop for Region XI (California, Nevada, Hawaii).

Other USCCB committees of which he was a member were: Pastoral Practices, Personnel, Home Missions, Lay Ministry, The Church in Latin America, African American Catholics, Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, The Church in Africa, Communications, International Policy and Cultural Diversity in the Church.

At the state level, Bishop Barnes served on CCC's Ad Hoc Health Committee, Racism Taskforce, Environmental Stewardship Committee and the Alta-Baja Bishops Group, which consists of bishops from dioceses just north and south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

## Lay

Continued from page 19

sibly and with fidelity to our baptismal call: to profess our faith in accordance with the values and the vision of the Church.

Through the formation of the laity, we have embraced Christian values and obtained a vision of hope that transforms us into missionary disciples and better sons and daughters of God in our families, the Church and the world.

Thousands have been and will continue to be the beneficiaries of Bishop Barnes' legacy in the formation of the laity, like Our Lady of Perpetual Help's Landscape Ministry coordinator who received the call to formation in the faith and who, over time, managed to complete advanced training while continuing to work in his min-

istry. He became an active member of the Pastoral Council, and together with his wife and family, exercised excellent leadership in the parish's Capital Campaign.

Like him, many other laypeople have heard the call to formation and are now committed leaders in our Diocese. They are men and women who have learned to love our faith and take responsibility for the mission of the Church because we know and have inscribed within us Bishop Barnes' episcopal motto: "Amar es Entregarse (Love is the total giving of oneself)."

Laura Lopez is Director of the Department of Pastoral Planning for the Diocese of San Bernardino and the former Pastoral Coordinator of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Indio.

urges the Church to meet immigrants with welcome and accompaniment rather than fear and ignorance.

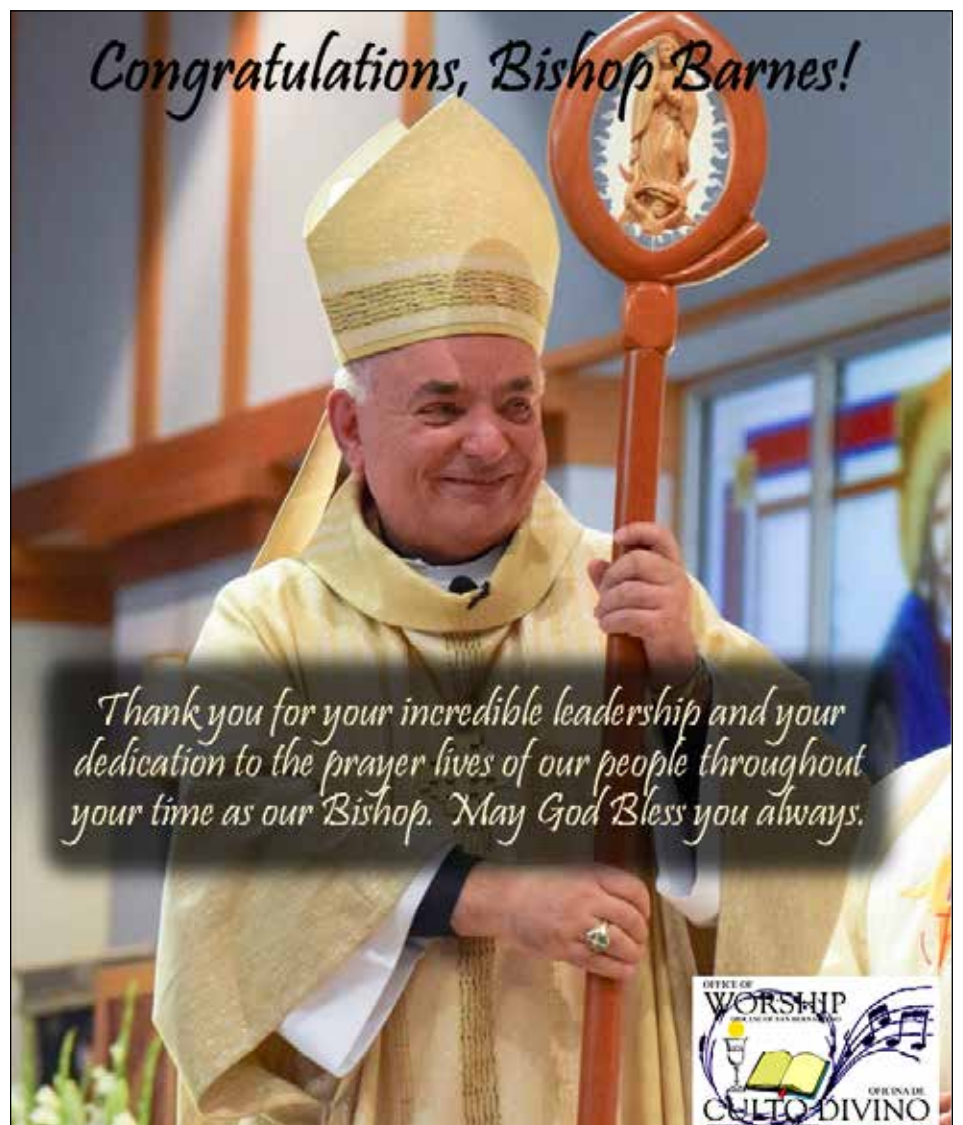
"The Church has to be at the forefront of this [issue of migration]. It has to be, because of our Catholic beliefs ... Our life as Catholics tells us, we must treat them with dignity and equality," said Bishop Barnes. "The Church has to be strong in living the Gospel."

## Migrants

Continued from page 9

ing," said Bishop Barnes. "There's also a tendency in all of us to blame somebody else for whatever problem we have. We don't look at ourselves, we find a scapegoat."

Bishop Barnes added that immigrants have given "great gifts" to our country. He





# Key moments in Bishop



**March 18, 1992** – Gerald Barnes is ordained the first Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino at St. Christopher Church in Moreno Valley.



**March 12, 1996** – Bishop Barnes is Installed as the second Ordinary Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino at RainCross Square in Riverside.

**May 20, 1997** – A Diocesan Vision resulting from a two-year consultation process with the faithful of the Diocese is unveiled at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral.

**March 27, 2001** – Bishop Barnes ordains +Dennis O’Neil as the second Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese.



**February 28, 2002** – Bishop Barnes publishes a Pastoral Letter on Sexual Abuse outlining new policies and procedures for all priests, employees, and ministry leaders in the Diocese; later that year establishes the Office of Charter Initiatives to implement the policies.

**June 12, 2004** – Bishop Barnes is elected Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration and Refugee Services Committee.



**July 26, 2006** – Our Lady Queen of Peace, the first Catholic cemetery in the Diocese, opens.

**September 6, 2007** – Diocese enters global settlement along with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Diocese of San Diego to resolve 13 sexual abuse lawsuits, paying \$18.2 million to 19 victims.

**April 4, 2011** – Diocese begins piloting of the national Building Intercultural Competencies for Ministers (BICM) program; one of four in the nation to do so.



**October 1, 2018** – Bishop Barnes publicly releases a list of all priests in the Diocese credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor during the 40-year history of the Diocese.



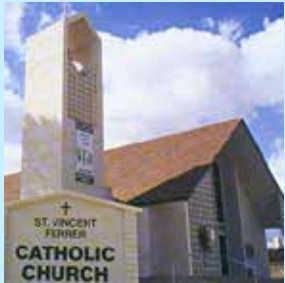
**August 8, 2019** – Bishop Barnes announced the beginning of the Episcopal Transition process in a video message.



**December 2, 2019** – Bishop Alberto Rojas is announced as Coadjutor Bishop of San Bernardino.



# Gerald Barnes' Episcopacy



**October 17, 1998** – The Ministry Formation Institute (MFI) founded by Bishop Barnes begins its first course at St. Vincent Ferrer Church in Sun City.

**January 1, 2000** – Under Bishop Barnes direction the Diocese begins Renew 2000, a three-year process of faith sharing, and leadership development done in a small group setting.

**March 18, 2000** – The First Annual Bishop's Dinner is held at the Palm Springs Convention Center.



**April 15, 2005** – Bishop Barnes dedicates new St. Junipero Serra House of Formation in Grand Terrace for seminarians.



**September 20, 2005** – Bishop Barnes ordains Rutilio del Riego as third Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese.



**May/June 2006** – Bishop Barnes establishes new parishes Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta (Winchester) and Our Lady of Hope (San Bernardino). From the merger of existing parishes, he also establishes The Holy Name of Jesus (Redlands), Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (Beaumont-Banning), and Blessed John the XXIII (Fontana-Rialto).



**July 10, 2014** – Diocese receives 46 asylum seekers at St. Joseph Parish, Fontana, signaling the beginning of a ministry that came to be called Operation Bienvenida.

**April 23-24, 2016** – In one weekend, Bishop Barnes dedicates three new houses of worship – Queen of Angels, Riverside; St. Adelaide, Highland; and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Winchester, a sign of that continuing rapid growth of the Diocese.



**March 17-18, 2017** – Bishop Barnes celebrates his 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination with a Gala at the Ontario Convention Center and a Mass the following Day at St. Paul the Apostle, Chino Hills

**March 17, 2020** – Bishop Barnes announces the suspension of all public Masses in the Diocese due to public health restrictions related to the global coronavirus pandemic. The suspension lasted two months.



**December 28, 2020** – Pope Francis accepts Bishop Barnes' letter of resignation, initiating his retirement as Ordinary Bishop.




## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*Under Bishop Barnes, Diocese committed to welcoming, accompanying immigrants,*  
page 9

*Leadership in abuse crisis made San Bernardino a national model,*  
page 10

*Bishop Barnes oversaw a period of intense growth, change,*  
page 16



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