

ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

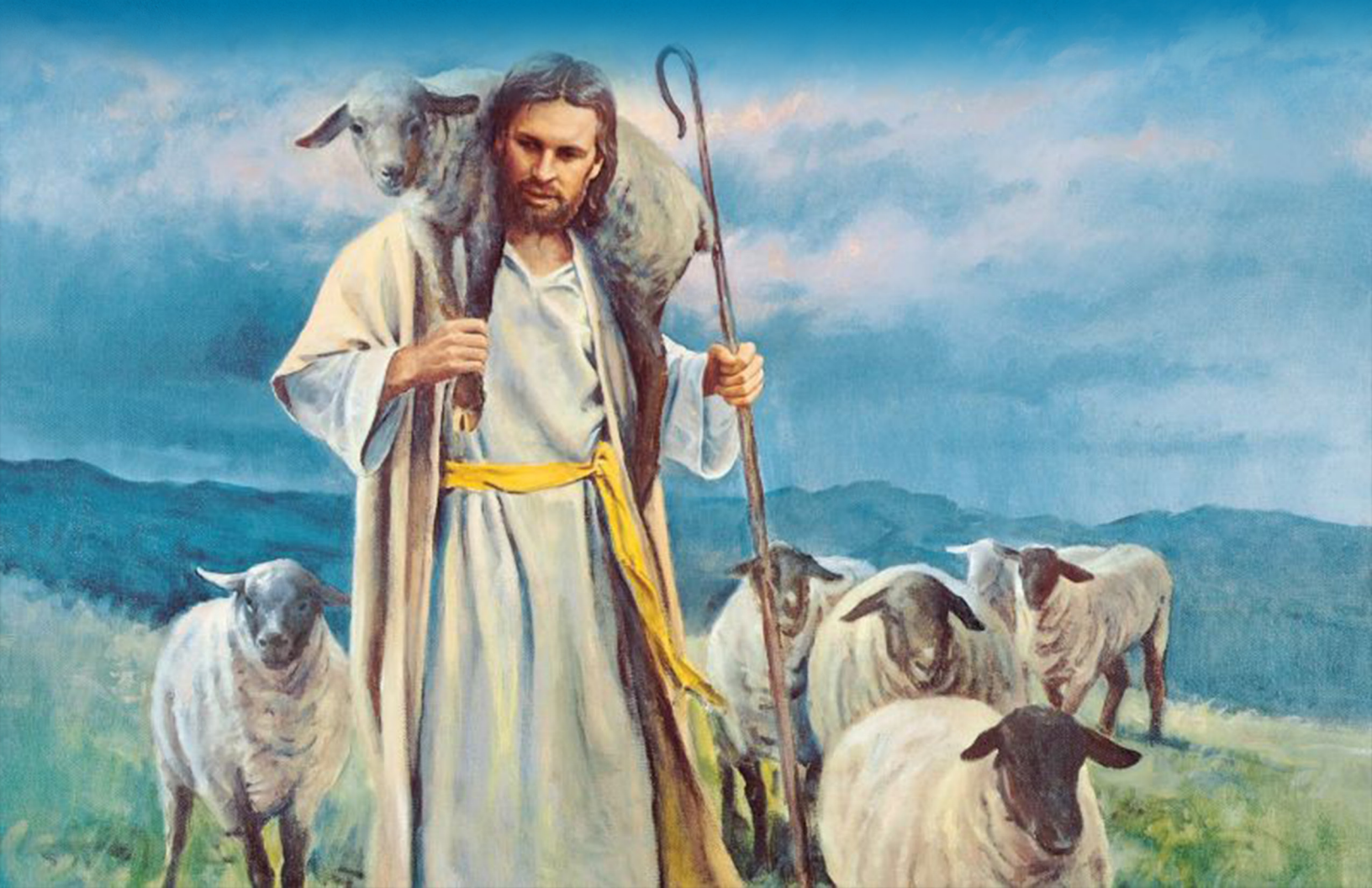
MASS OF INSTALLATION

Father Joribio Gutierrez

AUGUST 9, 2020 • 7:30 a.m.

CELEBRANT

MOST REVEREND BISHOP MARC TRUDEAU



Thank you!

Isn't life surprising?
As a young boy in my hometown and later when I was ordained, I never imagined I would be serving St. Bernard's Parish in Bellflower, although, my dream was to live in California. What a blessing when we are open to be led by God. In our last two years together, we have faced many challenges. Although with certain imperfections (more on my part) we have worked hard to establish a deeper relationship of faith and union at Holy Mass. Priesthood signifies sacred gift. But for me, you are all priests = a gift to my priesthood. I hope to be a gift as well, as we continue walking together towards our Father's house. I am grateful to all parishioners for your presence in one way or another, even when you think you might be invisible, I see you and I pray for you. Thank you for your unconditional support! Special thanks to parishioners who work tirelessly in making possible every parish ministry and group. I thank you with all my soul. Not only do you help, you help noiseless, you even pay for my breakfast and you never ever give up, not even at times when I am not very courteous or careful. Thank you for your genuine service towards me, my ministry, and this, our parish. Thank you to my staff for your warm and loving support... thank you for guiding and accompanying me in this challenge as parish administrator (and now as pastor), I don't know how they put up with me. All day long, I whistle. A thousand thanks to all our volunteers and ministries. This celebration is also fruit of your effort. Each day, you make my day and make my dreams come true. May God continue to bless each of you and your loved ones. I love you all a bunch.



¡Gracias!

¿No es sorprendente la vida? Cuando yo era niño en mi pueblo natal y más tarde cuando fui ordenado, nunca imaginé que estaría sirviendo en la Parroquia de San Bernardo en Bellflower, aunque mi sueño era vivir en California. Qué bendición cuando nos

abrimos, nos dejamos guiar por Dios. En estos últimos dos años juntos, hemos enfrentado muchos desafíos. Aunque con ciertas imperfecciones (más de mi parte) hemos trabajado duro para establecer una relación más profunda de fe y de unión en la Santa Misa. Sacerdote significa regalo sagrado. Pero, para mí, todos ustedes son sacerdotes = un regalo para mi sacerdocio. Espero serlo yo mientras caminamos juntos rumbo a la casa del Padre. Agradezco a todos los feligreses por su presencia de una forma u otra, incluso cuando piensan que pueden ser invisibles, los veo y rezo por ustedes. ¡Gracias por su apoyo incondicional! Especialmente, a aquellos feligreses que trabajan incansablemente para hacer posible cada uno de nuestros ministerios y grupos. Les doy las gracias con toda mi alma. No sólo me ayudan sin chistar, sino que hasta me pagan el desayuno y nunca nunca se rajan. Aunque muchas veces no me dirijo a ellos con amabilidad y cuidado. Gracias por su servicio genuino a mi persona, a mi ministerio y a esta nuestra parroquia. Gracias al personal por su afectuoso y cálido apoyo... gracias por guiarme y acompañarme en este reto como administrador parroquial (y ahora como párroco) No sé cómo me aguantan. Todo el día estoy chifle y chifle. Mil gracias a todos los voluntarios y ministerios. Esta celebración es también fruto de su esfuerzo. Me hacen el día todos los días y hacen de mis sueños una realidad. Que Dios continúe bendiciendo a cada uno de ustedes y a sus seres queridos. Los amo "retiarto".

INTRODUCTORY RITE • RITOS INICIALES

Gathering Hymn • Canto de Entrada

Our God is Here (C. Muglia)

Here in this time, here in this place,
Here we are standing face to face.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives,
Our God is here.
Here for the broken, here for the strong,
Here in this temple we belong.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives,
Our God is here.

And we cry
"Holy! Holy! Holy are you!"
We cry: "Holy! Holy! Holy and true!"
Amen, we do believe our God is here.
Our God is here.

Greeting • Saludo

Penitential Rite • Acto Penitential

Glory to God • Gloria

Opening Prayer • Oración Colecta

LITURGY OF THE WORD • LITURGIA DE LA PALABRA

First Reading • Primera Lectura

1Kings 19-19a, 11-13a (115A)

Al llegar al monte de Dios, el Horeb, el profeta Elías entró en una cueva y permaneció allí. El Señor le dijo: "Sal de la cueva y quédate en el monte para ver al Señor, porque el Señor va a pasar". Así lo hizo Elías y, al acercarse el Señor, vino primero un viento huracanado, que partía las montañas y resquebrajaba las rocas; pero el Señor no estaba en el viento. Se produjo después un terremoto; pero el Señor no estaba en el terremoto. Luego vino un fuego; pero el Señor no estaba en el fuego. Después del fuego se escuchó el murmullo de una brisa suave. Al oírlo, Elías se cubrió el rostro con el manto y salió a la entrada de la cueva.

Palabra de Dios. R/: Te alabamos, Señor.

Responsorial Psalm • Salmo Responsorial

Salmo 84, 9ab-10. 11-12. 13-14

R. Muéstranos, Señor, tu misericordia.

Escucharé las palabras del Señor, palabras de paz para su pueblo santo. Está ya cerca nuestra salvación y la gloria del Señor habitará en la tierra.

R. Muéstranos, Señor, tu misericordia.

La misericordia y la verdad se encontraron, la justicia y la paz se besaron, la fidelidad brotó en la tierra y la justicia vino del cielo.

R. Muéstranos, Señor, tu misericordia.

Cuando el Señor nos muestre su bondad, nuestra tierra producirá su fruto. La justicia le abrirá camino al Señor e irá siguiendo sus pisadas.

R. Muéstranos, Señor, tu misericordia.

Second Reading • Segunda Lectura

Romans 9:1-5

Brothers and sisters: I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. R:/ Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation • Aclamación antes de Evangelio

R:/ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for his word. R:/

Gospel

Mt 14:22-33

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord. R:/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Evangelio

Mt 14: 22-33

En aquel tiempo, inmediatamente después de la multiplicación de los panes, Jesús hizo que sus discípulos subieran a la barca y se dirigieran a la otra orilla, mientras él despedía a la gente. Después de despedirla, subió al monte a solas para orar. Llegada la noche, estaba él solo allí. Entretanto, la barca iba ya muy lejos de la costa, y las olas la sacudían, porque el viento era contrario. A la madrugada, Jesús fue hacia ellos, caminando sobre el agua. Los discípulos, al verlo andar sobre el agua, se espantaron, y decían: "¡Es un fantasma!" Y daban gritos de terror. Pero Jesús les dijo enseguida: "Tranquilícense y no teman. Soy yo". Entonces le dijo Pedro: "Señor, si eres tú, mándame ir a ti caminando sobre el agua". Jesús le contestó: "Ven". Pedro bajó de la barca y comenzó a caminar sobre el agua hacia Jesús; pero al sentir la fuerza del viento, le entró miedo, comenzó a hundirse y gritó: "¡Sálvame, Señor!" Inmediatamente Jesús le tendió la mano, lo sostuvo y le dijo: "Hombre de poca fe, ¿por qué dudaste?" En cuanto subieron a la barca, el viento se calmó. Los que estaban en la barca se postraron ante Jesús diciendo: "Verdaderamente tú eres el Hijo de Dios".

Palabra del Señor. R:/ Gloria a ti, Señor.

Proclamation of the Appointment

Father Toribio, Pastor-elect, stands before Bishop Trudeau and is presented to him by Christian Fuentes, MC. =The presenter asks the people to hold their applause until Bishop Trudeau is finished. The Bishop then responds:

My Dear Friends, because I am aware of the needs of this parish and I am confident of Father Toribio's qualifications for the Office of Pastor, I now entrust to him the Pastorate of this Parish. Welcome by the People

Bishop Trudeau then invites the people to express their approval and support of their new pastor.

Homily

Rite of Installation

Presentation of the Parish Clergy, Staff and Parish Groups

The Parish Clergy stand in place as the Bishop calls them by name and presents them to the new Pastor.

Fr. Toribio, my brothers Fr. Daniel and Deacon Ralph will assist you in the Pastoral care of the people of this parish. Share this ministry in a spirit of mutual trust, common prayer, and genuine concern

Pastor is greeted by his Associates in the parish ministry. When completed, the clergy take their seats.

I now ask that the Parish Staff and Finance Council please stand.

Parish Staff and Finance Council stand in place where they are seated.

Fr. Toribio, my brother, the Parish Staff and Finance Council are pledged to assist and counsel you in your ministry to the parish. Always be attentive to the guidance they offer. Share this ministry in a spirit of mutual trust, common prayer and genuine concern.

Staff and Finance Council sit down.

I now ask that representatives of the Office of Religious Education, Confirmation, Faith formation, RCIA, baptismal formation, to please stand.

Representatives stand in place where they are seated.

Fr. Toribio, my brother, you are called to be a teacher of the Gospel. These catechists and teachers will assist you in sharing the Good News of Christ to this community.

Representatives sit down.

I now ask that the representatives of all Parish Groups please stand.

Representatives from these groups stand in place where they are seated.

Fr. Toribio, my brother, you are called to be merciful as the Lord has shown his mercy to you. These, who minister to our sisters and brothers in need, are the living presence of our merciful Lord who poured out his life for the sake of others. You must always be the gentle shepherd who nurtures and cares for those in need.

Representatives of these groups sit down.

Presentation of the Parish Liturgical Ministries

I now ask that representatives of the parish liturgical ministries please stand. Those who will present the pastorate symbols please come forward.

Each minister in turn presents the symbol to Father Toribio. Bishop Trudeau will explain the meaning of that symbol. Then, the minister hands the symbol to Father Toribio, who in turn will hand it over to his assistant, who will place it on the table in front of the altar.

Lectionary

Fr. Toribio, my brother, may this Lectionary be a reminder that you will always be a faithful preacher of God's Word.

Que este Leccionario te recuerde que siempre debes de ser fiel proclamador de la Palabra de Dios.

Holy Chrism

Fr. Toribio, my brother, with this Holy Chrism you will anoint those you have welcomed into the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation. May they know of the Lord's love through your ministry to them.

Con este Santo Crisma ungirás a quienes son recibidos en la Iglesia a través de los sacramentos de Iniciación. Que ellos conozcan a través de tu ministerio el amor del Señor.

Oil of the Sick

Fr. Toribio, my brother, may this Oil of the Sick remind you to bring comfort and hope to the sick, the aged, and the lonely.

Que el Óleo de los enfermos te recuerde el ser portador de ayuda y esperanza para los enfermos, los ancianos, y los que sufren soledad.

Eucharistic Vessels: Chalice & Ciborium

Fr. Toribio, my brother, these vessels, Chalice and Ciborium, are to be a sign for you of the constant desire of the faithful to be fed with the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation at the Table of the Lord's Sacrifice.

Que estos vasos sagrados sean un signo para ti del deseo de los fieles de ser alimentados con el Pan de la Vida y el Cáliz de la Salvación en la Mesa del Sacrificio del Señor.

Purple Stole

Fr. Toribio, my brother, this purple Stole is a sign of the ministry of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Through this Sacrament you are to reconcile sinners to God and to the Church. May you always be a gentle and loving father to all who seek forgiveness through your ministry.

Esta Estola morada es un signo del Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Por medio de este sacramento debes de reconciliar al pecador con Dios y con la Iglesia. Que seas siempre un Padre amable y amoroso con quienes buscan el perdón por medio de tu ministerio.

Presentation of Faith and Oath

Remember, Fr. Toribio, always be a loving father, a gentle shepherd, and a wise teacher of your people, so that you may lead them to Christ who will strengthen all that you do.

As a teacher of that faith, I ask you now to lead your people in the Profession of Faith.

Recuerda, sé siempre un Padre amoroso, un Pastor amable, y un sabio Maestro de tu pueblo, para que los puedas guiar hacia Cristo que dará fortaleza a todo lo que haces.

Como Maestro de esa Fe, te pido que ahora guíes a tu pueblo en la Profesión de Fe.

Facing the Assembly, Father Toribio leads the Assembly in praying the Creed.

I believe in one God... • Creemos en un solo Dios...

At the conclusion of the Creed, Father Toribio faces Bishop Trudeau and recites the following oath

I also firmly accept and profess all that has been stated and declared by the Church regarding its doctrines of faith and of morals. I accept and profess all these teachings as they have been proposed by the Church, whether solemnly defined or whether constituting part of the Ordinary Magisterium.

In a special manner I do profess those teachings which concern the mystery of Christ's Holy Church, its sacraments, the Sacrifice of the Mass, and the primacy of the Roman Pontiff.

También acepto y profeso firmemente todo lo que la Iglesia enseña y declara concerniente a la Fe y a la Moral. Acepto y profeso todas las enseñanzas que han sido propuestas por la Iglesia, tanto las definiciones solemnes como lo que constituye su Magisterio ordinario.

De una manera especial Yo profeso las enseñanzas concernientes al Misterio de la Santa Iglesia de Cristo, sus sacramentos, el Sacrificio de la Misa y la primacía del Romano Pontífice.

Prayer of the Faithful (Universal Prayer)

Let us now pray for the Church and its leaders, for this parish, and for the needs of all people:

The response to each prayer is: "Lord, Hear our prayer"

Oremos por la Iglesia y sus líderes, por esta parroquia, y por las necesidades de todos los pueblos.

La respuesta de cada petición sera: "Señor, escucha nuestra oración"

- For Jose, our Archbishop, and for Marc our regional bishop that they and all the Bishops of the Church may lead us to a more faithful living of the Gospel: we pray to the Lord. R.

- Por el Padre Toribio, nuestro nuevo párroco, para que muestre siempre un amor de padre y una preocupación de hermano: roguemos al Señor. R.

- For all who contribute their time and talent to this parish, that their service to the Church may help us know the message of Christ: we pray to the Lord. R.

- Por la paz y la justicia en el mundo y por la conversión de quienes han endurecido su corazón a las necesidades de sus hermanos y hermanas: roguemos al Señor. R.

- For the poor of our community and throughout the world, that we be ever responsive to their needs and share with them from our bounty: we pray to the Lord. R.

- Por todos nosotros que formamos esta parroquia de San Bernardo para que trabajemos unidos en el anuncio de la Buena Nueva de Cristo a todas las gentes: roguemos al Señor. R.

Father, you have nourished and protected your Church providing it with pastors and stewards of your Word and Sacraments. Strengthen Father (name) as he begins a new ministry among your people and help us all to follow your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Lord forever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST • LITURGIA EUCARÍSTICA

Preparation of the Altar Hymn: We Come to the Feast (M. Joncas)

We place upon your table
A gleaming cloth of white
The weaving of our stories
The fabrics of our lives

The dreams of those before us
The ancients hopeful cry
The promise of our future
Our needing and our nurture
Lie here before our eyes.

We come to your feast
We come to your feast
The young and the old
The frightened, the bold
The greatest and the least

We come to your feast
We come to your feast
With the fruit of our lands
And the work of our hands
We come to your feast

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy • Santo

Santo, Santo, Santo es el Señor, Dios del universo. Santo es el Señor. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Bendito el que viene en el nombre del Señor. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation • Aclamación Memorial

Anunciamos tu muerte, Señor. Proclamamos tu resurrección. Ven, Señor. Ven, Señor Jesús!

Amen • Amén

Communion Rite • Rito de la Comunión

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God • Cordero de Dios

Cordero de Dios, que quitas el pecado del mundo, ten piedad de nosotros, ten piedad de nosotros. (2x)

Cordero de Dios, que quitas el pecado del mundo, danos la paz, danos la paz, danos, danos, danos la paz.

Communion • Comunión

Pan de Vida (B. Hurd)

Pan de Vida, cuerpo del Señor,
cup of blessing, blood of Christ the Lord.
At this table the last shall be first.
Poder es servir, porque Dios es amor.
Pan de Vida, cuerpo del Señor,
santa copa, Cristo Redentor.
Su justicia nos convertirá.
Poder es servir, porque Dios es amor

1. We are the dwelling of God,
fragile and wounded and weak.
We are the body of Christ,
called to be the compassion of God.
Somos el templo de Dios,
frágiles seres humanos.

2. Somos el cuerpo de Cristo,
llamados a ser compasivos.
You call me Teacher and Lord;
I, who have washed your feet.
So you must do as I do,
so the greatest must become the least.
Ustedes me llaman "Señor".
Me inclino a lavarles los pies.
Hagan lo mismo, humildes,
sirviéndose unos a otros.

3. There is no Jew or Greek;
there is no slave or free;
there is no woman or man;
only heirs of the promise of God.
No hay esclavos ni libres,
no hay mujeres ni hombres,
sólo aquellos que heredan
el reino que Dios prometió.

Pescador de Hombres (Lord, You Have Come) (C. Gabarain)

1. Lord, You have come to the seashore
Neither searching for the rich nor the wise
desiring only that I should follow
Tu has venido a la orilla
No has buscado ni a sabios, ni a ricos
Tan solo quieres que yo te siga

Refrain:

O Lord, with your eyes set upon me,
gently smiling, you have spoken my name
all I longed for I have found by the water
at your side, I will seek other shores.

Señor, me has mirado a los ojos
Sonriendo, has dicho mi nombre
En la arena, he dejado mi barca
Junto a ti, buscaré otro mar

2. Lord, see my goods, my possessions;
in my boat you find no power, no wealth
Will you accept then my nets and labor?
Tu sabes bien lo que tengo
En mi barca no hay oro, ni espadas
Tan solo redes y mi trabajo

3. Lord, take my hands and direct them
Help me spend myself in seeking the lost,
returning love for the love you gave me.
Tu necesitas mis manos
Mi cansancio que a otros descansen
Amor que quiera seguir amando

4. Lord, as I drift on the waters
be the resting place of my restful heart,
my life's companion, my friend and refuge
Tu pescador de otros mares
Ansia eterna de almas que esperan
Amigo bueno que así me llamas



Prayer After Communion • Oracion Despues de la Comunion

Announcements

Concluding Rite • Rito de Conclusion

Solemn Blessing • Benediccion Solemne

Send Forth • Envió

Song: This Is the Day (C. Landry)

This is the day, este es el día that the Lord has made, que hizo el Señor
Let us rejoice, Día de alegría And be glad in it, y de gozo.
This is the day that the Lord has made Día del alegría y de gozo
This is the day, este es el día that the Lord has made.

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe for the Protection from Coronavirus

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.



Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Oración a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe para la protección contra el coronavirus.

Virgen Santísima de Guadalupe, Reina de los Ángeles y Madre de las Américas. Acudimos a ti hoy como tus amados hijos. Te pedimos que intercedas por nosotros con tu Hijo, como lo hiciste en las bodas de Caná.

Ruega por nosotros, Madre amorosa, y obtén para nuestra nación, nuestro mundo, y para todas nuestras familias y seres queridos, la protección de tus santos ángeles, para que podamos salvarnos de lo peor de esta enfermedad.

Para aquellos que ya están afectados, te pedimos que les concedas la gracia de la sanación y la liberación. Escucha los gritos de aquellos que son vulnerables y temerosos, seca sus lágrimas y ayúdalos a confiar. En este tiempo de dificultad y prueba, enséñanos a todos en la Iglesia a amarnos los unos a los otros y a ser pacientes y amables.

Ayúdanos a llevar la paz de Jesús a nuestra tierra y a nuestros corazones. Acudimos a ti con confianza, sabiendo que realmente eres nuestra madre compasiva, la salud de los enfermos y la causa de nuestra alegría. Refúgianos bajo el manto de tu protección, manténnos en el abrazo de tus brazos, ayúdanos a conocer siempre el amor de tu Hijo, Jesús. Amén

About Father Toribio

Father Toribio was ordained on December 6, 2008 at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Mexico City by Mons. Antonio Ortega Franco. Father is originally from Mexico and named by his grandmother after the brave martyr, St. Toribio Romo who died in 1928. He came to the United States and he was first assigned to Our Lady of Talpa in East LA. and carried out his ministry in the light of the Gospel. Father served a pastor at Our Lady of Talpa, once run by Mexican Vincentian priest. Prior to coming to St. Bernard, he was an Associate Pastor at St. Paschal Baylon, a vibrant Catholic Community in Thousand Oaks.

Father was involved in various ministries in that community, especially devoting one to his heart, that of improving self-esteem. He came to St. Bernard on July 1, 2018 as our administrator, impressed many of us by remembering names with faces right away. First things first: he cleaned up the halls, the Church and the rectory, did many physical improvements in these structures, installed security devices and communication lines. Father sees to it that he is physically fit to carry out the duties as a minister; he loves every living creature, that is why he is vegan. He also loves to read. The spiritual side of the Church can be well-spoken of, Father has given full support of the formation ministries especially the school and the Religious Ed program, RCIA and Confirmation.

Father inspires us to focus on love, beauty and the truth, in his homilies and pastoral actions. Anyone who needs help, he would offer his advice especially in the areas of assertiveness, emotional intelligence, boundaries and managing conflict. On July 1, 2020, Father was appointed Pastor of St. Bernard. Father's long-enduring effort is to unite a diverse community such as ours, with great love and care.

Sobre Padre Toribio

El P. Toribio nació en una familia mexicana de 12 hermanos. Siendo él el octavo. Su familia es muy católica y muy cercana a su parroquia. Recibió el Bautismo de emergencia a los pocos días de nacer por estar en peligro de muerte. Su abuela materna, doña Antonia Romo, rogó a los papás que le pusieran el nombre de Santo Toribio Romo, sacerdote de la familia que había sido martirizado en Tequila Jalisco en 1928 y que hoy es el Patrón de los Migrantes. El efecto fue de mucho provecho y efectivo en su sanación. El P. Toribio creció en un entorno muy católico y tradicional. Estudio en la Escuela Parroquial a cargo de una congregación religiosa femenina.

Durante sus primeros años de vida, el P. Toribio estuvo rodeado de piedad y devoción. Toda la familia se reunía en torno a los sacerdotes del pueblo que solían ir comer y/o a cenar a su casa. Creció admirándolos y ardiendo en deseo de, un día, convertirse en uno de ellos. Con el paso del tiempo este deseo disminuyó con la llegada de la adolescencia. Por fin un día, se animó e ingresó al seminario Menor de los Misioneros Vicentinos en Lagos de Moreno Jalisco. Con ellos hizo toda su formación sacerdotal. Fue ordenado diácono en la Ciudad de México el 1 de Diciembre de 2007 y allí mismo se ordenó sacerdote un año después un 6 de Diciembre.

Su primer ministerio fue la Pastoral Vocacional. Allí estuvo trabajando 5 años. En 2012, fue enviado como Formador del Seminario Vicentino para Centroamérica (en Santo Domingo). Salió de República Dominicana y vino a servir a la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Talpa (en el Este de Los Ángeles). Fue hecho párroco de 2012-2013 hasta que los padres Vicentinos decidieron entregar la parroquia a la Arquidiócesis.

El P. Toribio decidió continuar aquí su proceso de nacionalización, mientras discernía la opción de permanecer en esta Arquidiócesis. Fue enviando a la Parroquia de San Pascual Bailón en Thousand Oaks (en donde trabajó por cuatro años). El 1ero de Julio de 2018 llegó como Administrador a San Bernardo y fue nombrado párroco el 1 de Julio 2020.

Prayer for Vocations

Lord, you call us all by name to follow your path. You always bless your Church and you guide your followers to become leaders who think of others before themselves. Mold us in the image of your Son, to respond to your call as Sisters, allow his knowledge to open our hearts, mind and souls to your enduring call. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

History of St. Bernard Catholic Community

1922: St. Bernard Catholic Community, comprising of 8 parishioners, celebrated its first mass together in a private home among farmers in a farmland. They invited a visiting priest, Father J. E. Fitzgerald, to celebrate mass in the home of Mrs. L. P. Cote. The community named their church "Assumption." Six months later, the parish bought a 2-bedroom house at 538 Center Street.

1923: Bishop John Cantwell established a parish naming it in honor of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, the 12th century Cistercian who founded the famous monastery. Similar to the simple beginnings of this parish was the foundation of the Cistercian monasteries that grew from St. Bernard's initial effort. The parish named after St. Bernard of Clairvaux was founded in a town named by area dairy farmers for the bellefleur apple that grew abundantly in their orchards. The first parishioners were all farmers that were of Latino, Portuguese and Dutch descendants.

* * * Father Eugene Villemure was assigned the first Pastor. * * *

1924: The first church building was completed for a contract cost of \$6,000, financed by the Bank of Italy. Within a year, the parish grew to 200 families located in Bellflower and surrounding areas of Artesia and parts of Paramount.

1925: Father Eugene Villemure ends his last year as Pastor of St. Bernard Parish.

1926: Father Thomas J. McNamara becomes the second Pastor of St. Bernard Parish.

1927: In October of this year, Norwalk was added to the parish. St. Bernard Church is now the mother church of many churches in this area. The liturgy was said to be very lively at this very early stage.

1928: Father Stephen Kiley succeeds Fr. McNamara as the third Pastor. Father Kiley was a native of New York, whose first of six pastorates was at St. Bernard Church. He was named a monsignor before his death in 1962.

1930: Monsignor Maurice Dee of County Tipperary, Ireland, served the parish for one year but spent 48 years ministering in the archdiocese before he died in 1972.

1931: Monsignor Patrick O'Dwyer, another native of County Tipperary in Ireland, received his first pastorate at St. Bernard, serving three years. He died in 1971.

1934: Father Leo Lambrick serves a 3-year term as Pastor. He was a native of Toronto who came to California in 1924. A feature article relates the story of his 20 years of severe arthritis and the "cure" that happened on the feast of St. Joseph. He died in 1972 at age 79.

1937: Father Michael Conneally, one of the famous Conneally family members from County Galway, filled the post of Pastor. He died in 1940.

1938: Father Roger O'Shea of County Kerry, Ireland, served for two years and died at the end of his pastorate at age 51.

1940: Father Cornelius Sullivan becomes the Pastor at St. Bernard Church. During his term, 1940 - 1950 (died in 1957), a search for a new location for the parish began.

1943: The property on Palm Avenue (now Beach Street) just west of Bellflower Boulevard was purchased as the new location for St. Bernard Church. The construction of a temporary church, a convent, and a 4-room school began soon after.

1947: Bishop Joseph T. McGucken, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles and Apostolic Administrator, dedicated the new buildings on March 23. The first Parish Festival was held in September of this year. Mrs. Donna Santos was the first queen of the festival because she sold the highest number of tickets.

1948: Father Sullivan felt the need to expand the school for the growing community. He had 300 students and 60 on the waiting list. The number of parishioners was increasing fast. There was a great sense of community at this level.

1950: Monsignor Michael Carthage Healy of County Cork, Ireland, became Pastor and headed the parish for 25 years. He continued and completed the construction began by Father Sullivan. Monsignor Healy came with energy, vision, and enthusiasm.

1952: Father Michael O'Shea, a new arrival from Ireland, was sent to St. Bernard Parish on August 26 as an Associate Pastor. By then, the population of the parish had outgrown the Church built by Father Sullivan.

1953: On August 26, Father Healy requested that a permanent church be built. According to his letter, "the auditorium which has been used for seven years is no longer adequate. It seats 350, but more than 100 are standing." During this year, plans were finalized for the construction of a church that would seat 700 people.

1954: New church building begins. Bellflower's population had swelled to 60, 000.

1955: The Church was completed in April because of the enthusiasm and the deep faith of the parishioners. The first mass in the new Church was held at 6:30 a.m. on May 8. Cardinal James McIntyre dedicated it on December 4.

The new Church featured a cross-topped 72-foot high tower, now an area landmark that is very visible when traveling west on Freeway 91. Completion of the Church cost nearly \$240, 000. In addition to the church building, there was the reconstruction of the temporary Church (now the Friendship Hall) to a parish hall and the addition of several garages. The complete building program cost nearly one million dollars.

1965: Monsignor Healy built the new school with eight classrooms, offices, and teachers' rooms. Monsignor Healy dies in 1975 at age 68, after 46 years of priestly ministry.

1975: Father Philip McGrath of County Kilkenny, Ireland, succeeded Monsignor Healy and was appointed Administrator of St. Bernard Church on November 1, 1975.

1976: Father Philip McGrath was appointed Pastor in April, and served the parish for 23 years. Among his many contributions was the capital building campaign. He continued the construction by building the current new rectory, new church offices, and the new main Parish Hall. A new 2-story wing and the existing school were also constructed containing new room facilities for a larger Library, a Computer Lab, a Science Room, an Art Room, and a Music Room. Father McGrath died in 2008 at age 79

1979: On June 3, St. Bernard Church celebrated its 25th anniversary. After the celebration, alterations were made inside the Church to put in a new altar with a crucifix made in Rome.

1995: Father Thomas Feltz, a native of Ohio, comes to St. Bernard Church as administrator.

1998: Father Feltz becomes the Pastor for six years. He is now a Senior Priest residing at Our Lady of Grace Parish Church in Encino.

2004: Father Michael Ume was named as the new administrator at St. Bernard Church. He immediately planned for a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the current Church.

2006: On November 18, Father Ume was installed as the new Pastor. He worked on uniting all the ministries under one goal: to serve with love. With the help of the Finance Council and an ad-hoc building group, he restored and beautified the Church, adding a baptismal font. His loving ministry to St. Bernard Church ended on June 30, 2018.

2018: On July 1, Father Toribio Gutierrez came as an administrator and new parish spiritual leader. He has worked nonstop to clean, repair, and organize our surroundings. He has a great concern for security and safety for parishioners. We look forward to his weekly letters to Grandma, and he motivates the community to come together in prayer and active ministries.

2020: Father Gutierrez was appointed Pastor on July 1, 2020. Despite all the new challenges faced in the world with COVID-19, he has sought many communication methods to stay connected to parishioners and transmit live-streamed mass to parishioners in quarantine. He continues to amaze us with this light and happy spirit.





Saint Bernard

A Roman Catholic Community