

Bishop Cirilo Flores

Biographical Summary

Bishop Cirilo Flores was born in Corona, California, on June 20, 1948, the third child of Cirilo and Armida Flores (deceased). He has three brothers and two sisters, all residents of California. He attended local schools, graduating from St. Edward Parish School, Corona, and Notre Dame High School, Riverside.

He received a Bachelor's degree from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles and the Juris Doctor law degree from Stanford University School of Law. He practiced law in Riverside and Los Angeles counties for ten years before he entered St. John's Seminary in Camarillo in 1986.

He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Orange on June 8, 1991 by Bishop Norman McFarland. He served as parochial vicar at St. Barbara Parish (Santa Ana), St. Joachim (Costa Mesa), Our Lady of Mount Carmel, (Newport Beach, administrator), and Our Lady of Guadalupe (La Habra). In 2000 he was appointed pastor of St. Anne Parish in Santa Ana. In September of 2008 he was appointed Pastor of St. Norbert Parish, Orange.

Bishop Flores was appointed Titular Bishop of Quiza and Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Orange by Pope Benedict XVI on January 5, 2009. He was ordained to the episcopacy on March 19, 2009. Bishop Tod Brown appointed him to serve as Vicar for Charities for the Diocese.

On January 4, 2012 it was announced that Pope Benedict had appointed Bishop Flores to serve as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego, to succeed Bishop Robert Brom upon his retirement.

While serving as Auxiliary Bishop of Orange, Bishop Flores has served on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Subcommittee on Latin America and on the USCCB Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs.

For the California Conference of Catholic Bishops he is the Chairman of the Committee on Religious Liberty and is the Episcopal liaison for RECOPS, the Region Eleven Council of Priest Senates.

Bishop Cirilo Flores: A Message to the People of Orange
Statement regarding Appointment as Coadjutor Bishop of San Diego
January 4, 2012

I take this opportunity to inform you that I have been appointed Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego. My appointment as coadjutor means that I will succeed the current bishop, Bishop Robert Brom, upon his retirement, as Bishop of San Diego. The Vatican announced my appointment early this morning.

I was very surprised when I received a call from the Holy Father's representative, Apostolic Nuncio Carlo Maria Vigano, a few days before Christmas, advising me of my appointment to San Diego. I had thought that I might someday be transferred from Orange to another diocese; I am delighted to know that my next home will be San Diego.

I thank our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI for this wonderful and challenging assignment and I extend my gratitude to Bishop Robert Brom who has been most supportive and welcoming. I look forward to working with Bishop Brom and assisting him during this time of transition, which will be a time for me to learn about the local church of San Diego and Imperial Counties. I enthusiastically anticipate meeting the priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and lay faithful who are the Diocese of San Diego. I ask God's grace that I may be a good shepherd sharing the good news of God's mercy and love.

I will miss the Diocese of Orange. My entire priesthood has been spent in this diocese. I was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Orange in 1991 and was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Orange three years ago. I was formed as a priest by the parishioners I was privileged to serve for eighteen years; I learned how to serve by the example of the priests I have known in Orange. I thank Bishop Tod Brown for his personal support, and for being for us in Orange a bishop of vision during this historic time for the Diocese.

As I discussed with Apostolic Nuncio Vigano and with Bishop Brom, I was born and reared in Corona in Riverside County when that area was part of the Diocese of San Diego. I was baptized and received my sacraments at St. Edward Parish in Corona and I was confirmed by Bishop Francis Buddy of San Diego! The Diocese of San Diego was my home for the first 30 years of my life, until the Diocese of San Bernardino was established in 1978.

The Diocese of San Diego encompasses Imperial and San Diego Counties, covering 8,852 square miles, and reporting a Catholic population of approximately 982,000. The diocese has 99 parishes, 14 missions, 47 Catholic elementary schools, 6 Catholic High Schools, 2 Catholic universities, and many ministries and institutions that bring to life the works of mercy. Approximately 64,800 young people received faith formation /religious education in the parishes and missions and schools of the diocese last year.

As I begin my ministry in the Diocese of San Diego I ask for your prayers; I assure you of mine.

Thank you. + Bishop Cirilo