ST. RITA

The Living Stones of the Parish



Baptism John Hawkins, 1955
Msgr. John F. Gallagher
Founding Pastor of St. Rita

Msgr. John F. Gallagher, 1961
Opening of School Season





Father Alphonse
May 13, 1956
Baptism of Edward Kapelczak

Bishop Leo T. Maher with Msgr. John F. Gallagher, 1960 Confirmation Mass

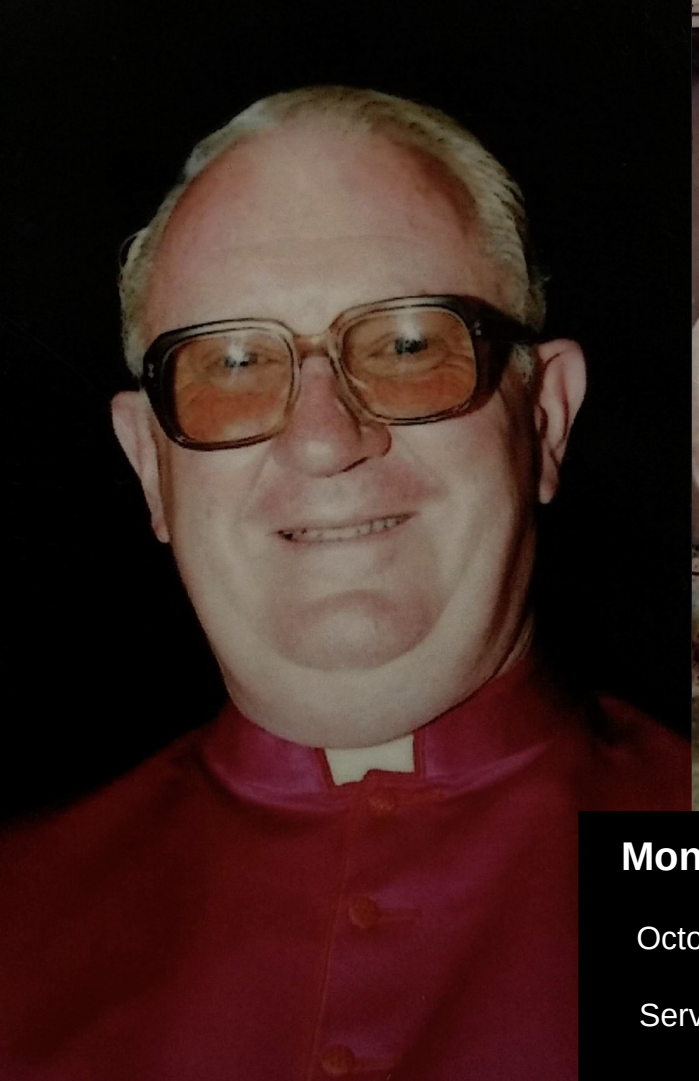




Msgr. John F. Gallagher, 1962
Handing out graduation diploma

Bishop Leo T. Maher with Msgr. Pattison, 1968 Confirmation Mass









Monsignor Francis Pattison

From Kilkenny, Ireland

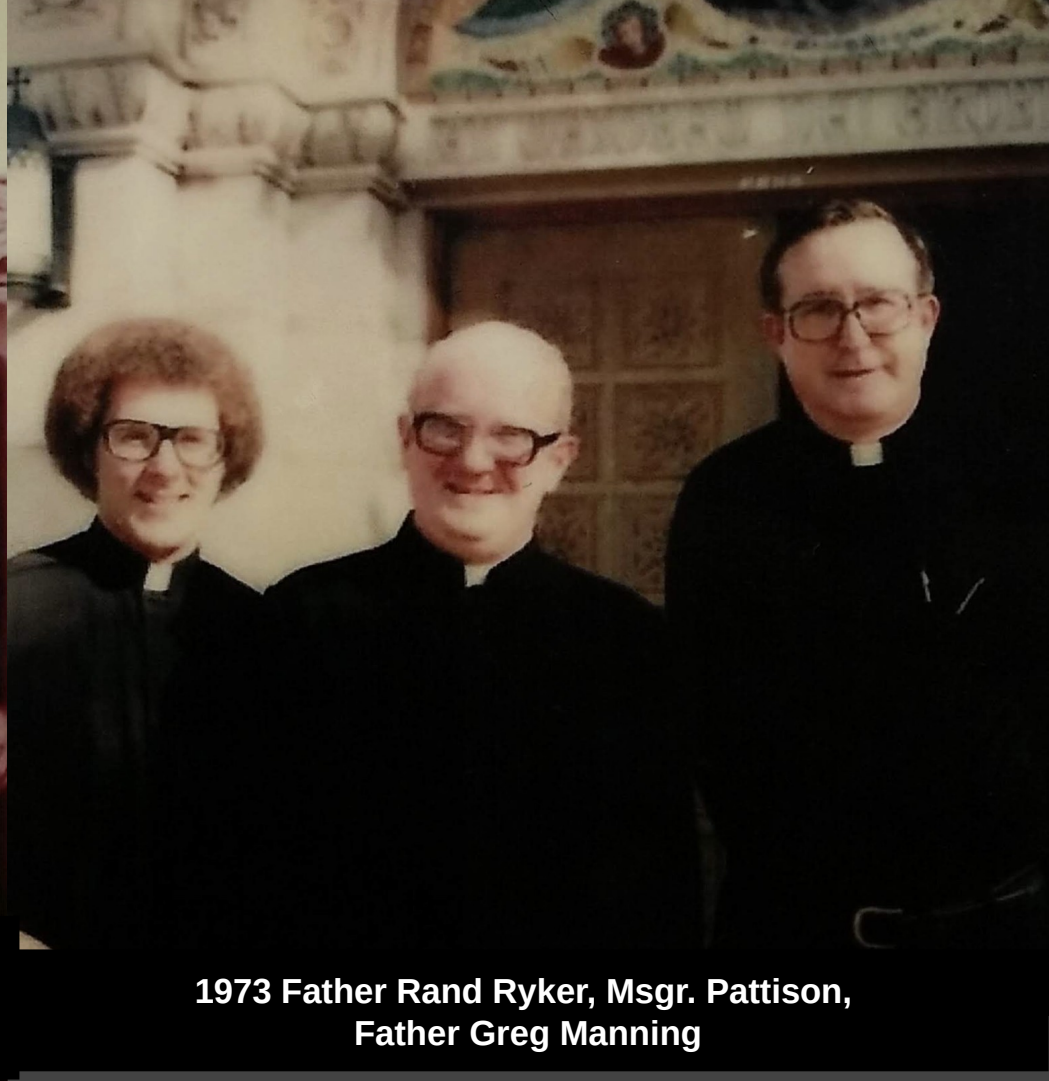
October 15, 1934 - August 30, 2018

Ordained June 8, 1958

Served at St. Rita 1968, 1973-2009



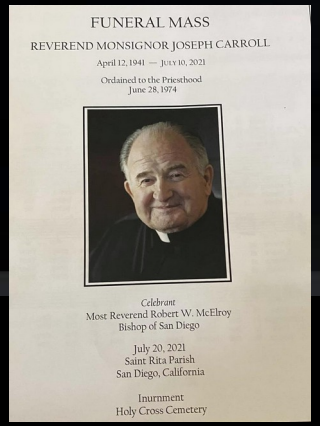
1968 Msgr Francis Pattison, Father James Rankin, Father Malachy McGinn, Msgr. John Gallagher, Father Marks



1973 Father Rand Ryker, Msgr. Pattison, Father Greg Manning

A life of dedication.
A mission that lives on.

Reverend Monsignor Joseph Carroll
April 12, 1941 - July 10, 2021
Ordained to the Priesthood June 28, 1974



FUNERAL MASS

REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOSEPH CARROLL

April 12, 1941 — July 10, 2021

Ordained to the Priesthood
June 28, 1974

Celebrant
Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy
Bishop of San Diego

July 20, 2021
Saint Rita Parish
San Diego, California

Inurnment
Holy Cross Cemetery

April 25, 2020

My dear Parishioners,

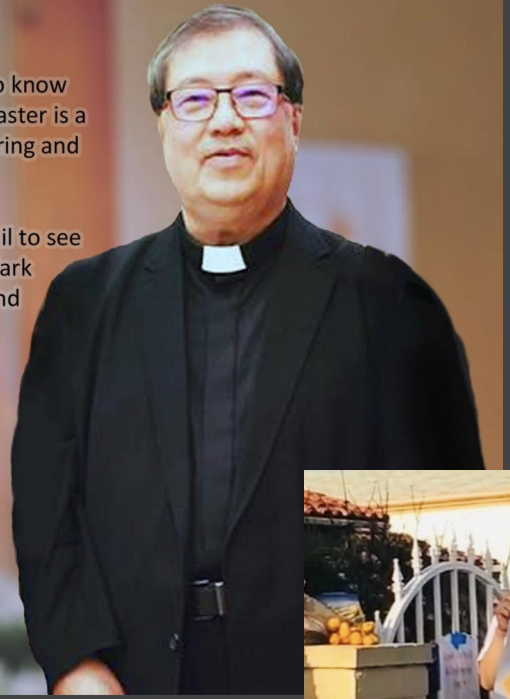
Despite our current separation, as your Pastor, I want you all to know that you are close to me in spirit and prayer. Remember that Easter is a time of great joy because our Lord has already embraced suffering and death and achieved victory over them for us.

True, we are in a situation so foreign. Covid blinds us and we fail to see the blessings behind the pain and the light in this pandemic's dark mask. Things happen for reasons we do not know. Only the mind of the Almighty understands. It is in His plan which we cannot question. It is enough to remain in faith and answer the call to pray and be the light to those who are in darkness and distress.

So, while we are temporarily apart, we stay united with Him and one another. Rejoice as the Psalmist says in this Sunday's Psalm, "O God in you, I take refuge."

I leave you my peace and prayers.

Fr. Armando Escurel







Father Armando Escurel,
Pastor July 2009 - June 2020



Father Silverio Espenilla, Jr
Pastor
July 1, 2020 to present







Father Carlos Torres
with Srs. Dina Garcia & Margaret Castro
Presides over our Spanish Mass - June, 2016





Deacon Robert Booth & Irene Booth



Deacons Reuben Pelina & Deacon Robert Booth

Priests who celebrated Mass with us throughout the years.



Father Alex Aquino



Father Bernard Ronoa



Father Alfredo Heyrosa



Father Joaquin “Boom” Martinez



Father John Smith



Father Danny Villapanda

Father Jovencio Ricafort
Associate Pastor January 1987 - December 2003











Father Elmer Mandac
Associate Pastor January 2004 - June, 2009



June 8, 1983 - The Silver Sarcedotal Msgr Francis Pattison



Father Peter Escalante, Father Joe Carroll,
Father Dennis Macalintal
St. Rita Associate Pastor 1983 - 1987

Father Joe Carroll, Msgr. Pattison

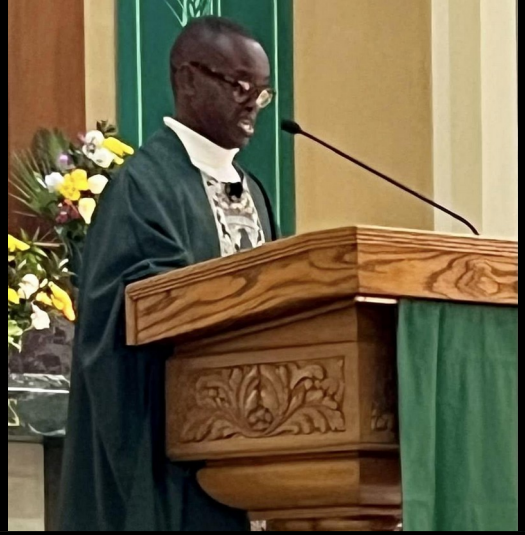




Father Dominic Obur
Priest In Residence
January, 2021 - February, 2022









Father Chima Offurum
Priest In Residence
February 2023 - June 2024









Father Bethrand Ujunwa
Priest In Resident
July 2024 - June 2026





Sisters Dina Garcia & Margaret Castro
With Confirmation student
Sr. Dina retired in 2022 and lives in
Massachusetts



Catechist Maria Ramirez Gutierrez with
Sister Lourdes Barbosa
Religious Education Director
August, 2022 - March, 2024


SAINT RITA










5122



St. Rita's Church

Simbang Gabi

2022





December 23, 2022

Sponsored by Filipino-American Community of Saint Rita

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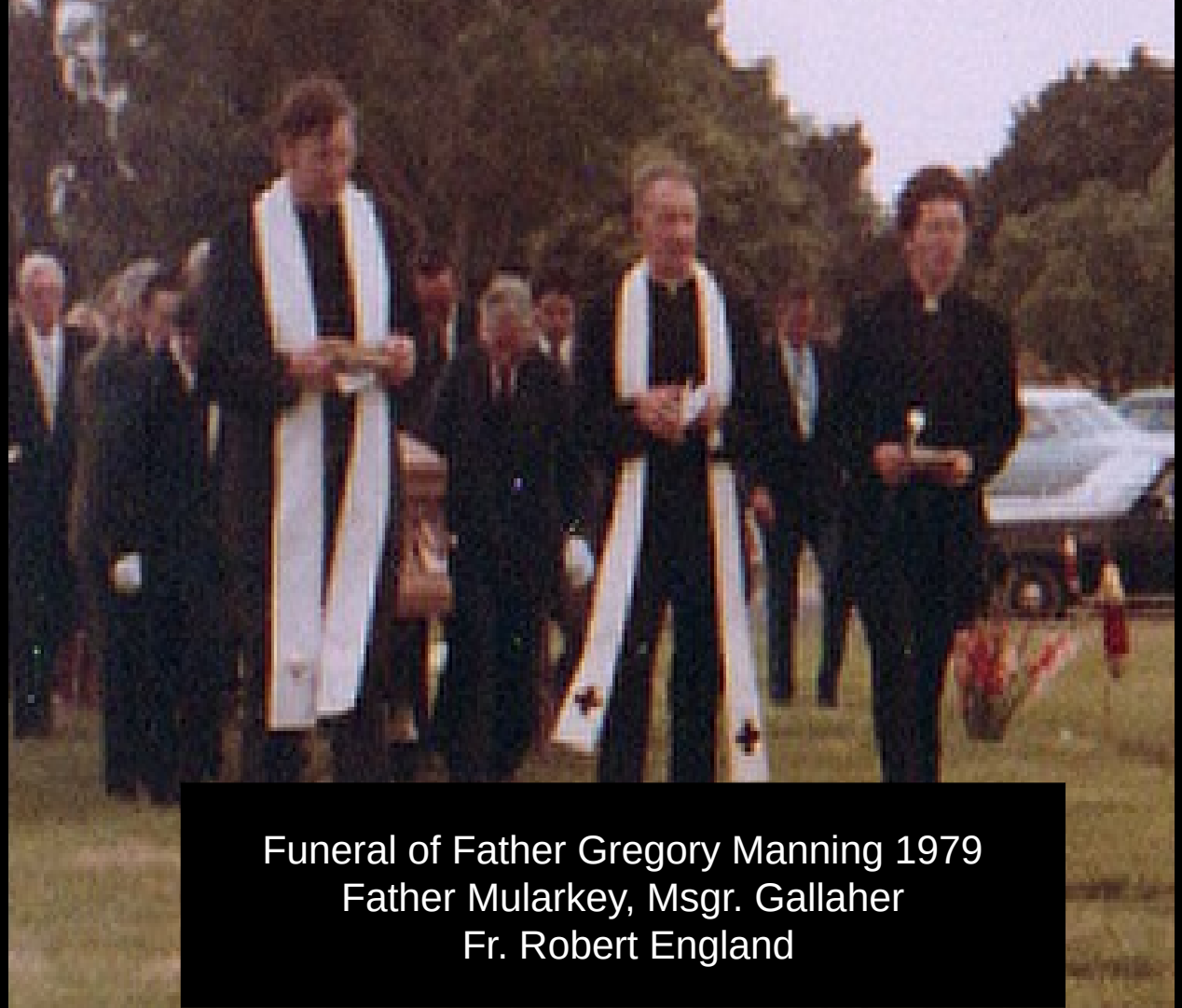
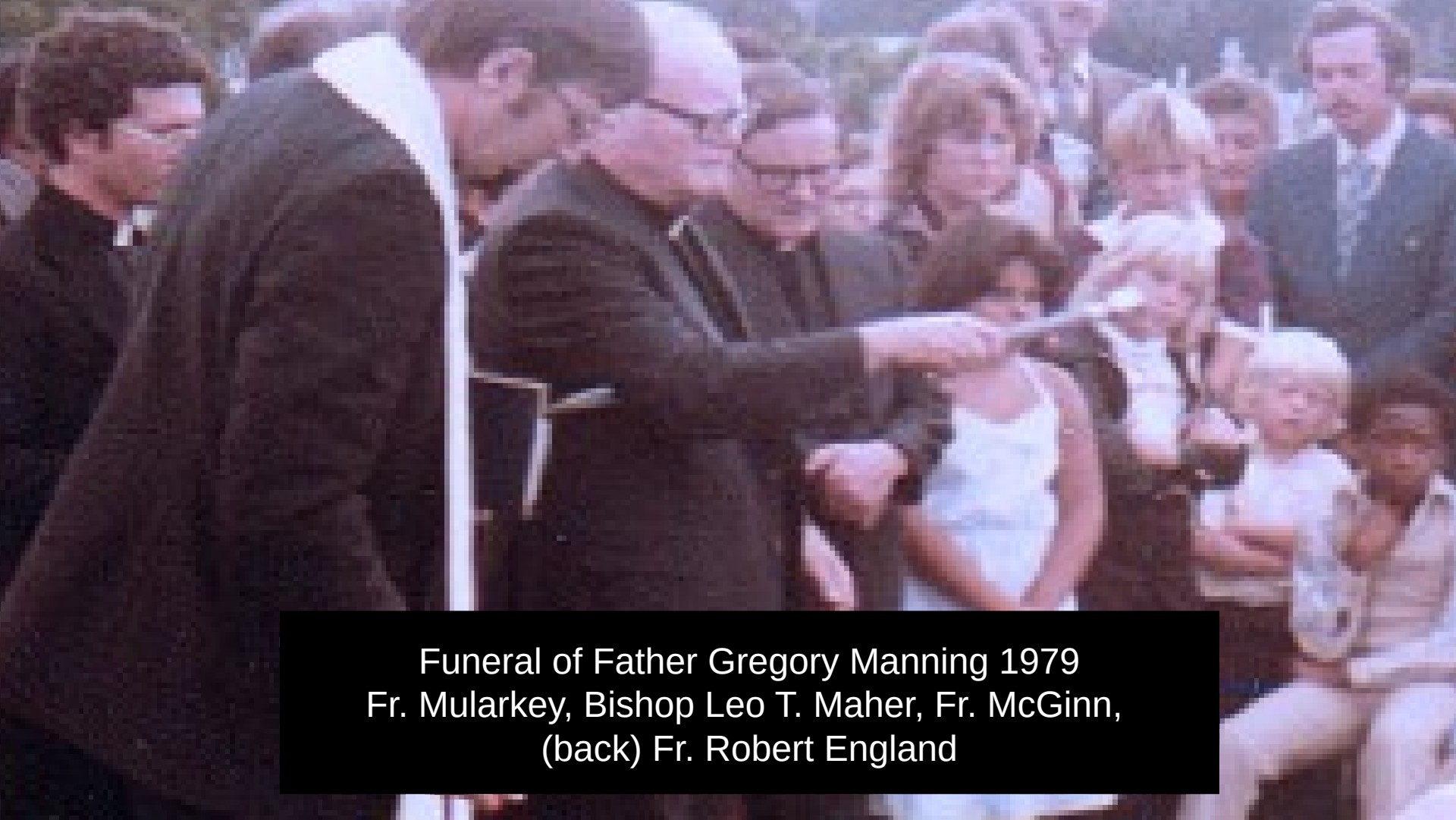


Funeral of Father Gregory Manning 1979
Father Mularkey, Msgr. Gallaher
Fr. Robert England



Funeral of Father Gregory Manning 1979
Fr. Mularkey, Bishop Leo T. Maher, Fr. McGinn,
(back) Fr. Robert England





Rectory Staff:
Msgr. Pattision & Carmen Rubio
Barbara Schmidt, Msgr. Pattison, Eva Frigerio, Lupe Ramirez





Bailey Guy
Secretary February 2023 - February 2025



Father Joseph Viet Hoang
Binh Thuan, Vietnam
5/6/55 - 12/02/2012
St. Rita Associate Pastor
July, 2009 to Dec 2, 2012





Sister Margaret Castro
San Diego, California
11/12/38 - 6/8/22
Director of Religious Education since 1982

ST. RITA

Marian Devotion



SOUTHERN CROSS, June 9, 1977—3

FILIPINOS HONOR MARY—Members of the Filipino community in San Diego pray the rosary as they process with a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary on St. Rita church grounds May 31, concluding the daily May devotions during the Flores de Mayo [Flowers of May] celebration. A Mass followed with Father Onofre Aurelio, Filipino missionary, San Diego Catholic Mission, as principal celebrant. The priest's first anniversary of service in San Diego was celebrated at a dinner after Mass.—SC photo



May, 1977

The Filipino tradition of *Flores de Mayo* started at St. Rita's in May 1977 with this image of the Blessed Mother. Since that time, St. Rita's now has ten prayer blocks praying the Rosary each May and October with pilgrim images of *Mama Mary.* It is coordinated by our cultural communities starting with seven Filipino groups. In 2000 the Black, Hispanic and Samoan communities have instilled this in their families.







Above: A mix of faith and culture. The PASACAT Philippine Performing Arts Company graced the fellowship at Saint Rita's Church with tinikling and enlivened the audience who joined in the singing of "Tayo Na Sa Antipolo."
Right: Marjorie Acol, 1995 Chairperson of the Diocesan Commission for Filipino Catholics (DCFC) stands with Rodrigo Valdivia, Director of the Office for Multicultural Affairs, and Annamaria L. Cabato 1996 Chairperson of the DCFC. The team coordinated the visit of Our Lady of Antipolo in the diocese.

Summer, 1995
A replica of Our Lady of Antipolo or *Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage* traveled the United States before permanently enshrined at the ***Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception***. St. Rita's Parish hosted one night to an overflowing crowd which filled all seats including the loft for all day Rosary Prayers and Evening Mass.

January, 2008
A traveling image of Our Lady of Fatima made her way around the United States and to Saint Rita. Her sign said, ***“Do not touch me, I will touch you.”***





ST. RITA PARISH

1941-2026

85 Years of Faith & Community


Bienvenue
Welcome
Willkommen
Failte
Bienvenido
MABUHAY
MailaHalom


SANCTUS

Last Parish Bazaar was June 1-2, 2019




2/3/14 Diocesan Revival
St. Rita Gospel Choir


Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxilia
St. Rita's Catholic Church
Court 384



February 11, 2018 Mardi Gras



February 11, 2018 Mardi Gras
King Paul & Queen Edwina Recasner



February 11, 2018
Mardi Gras at Saint Rita Parish



February 11, 2018
Mardi Gras at Saint Rita Parish
King Glenn and Queen Lucy Recasner



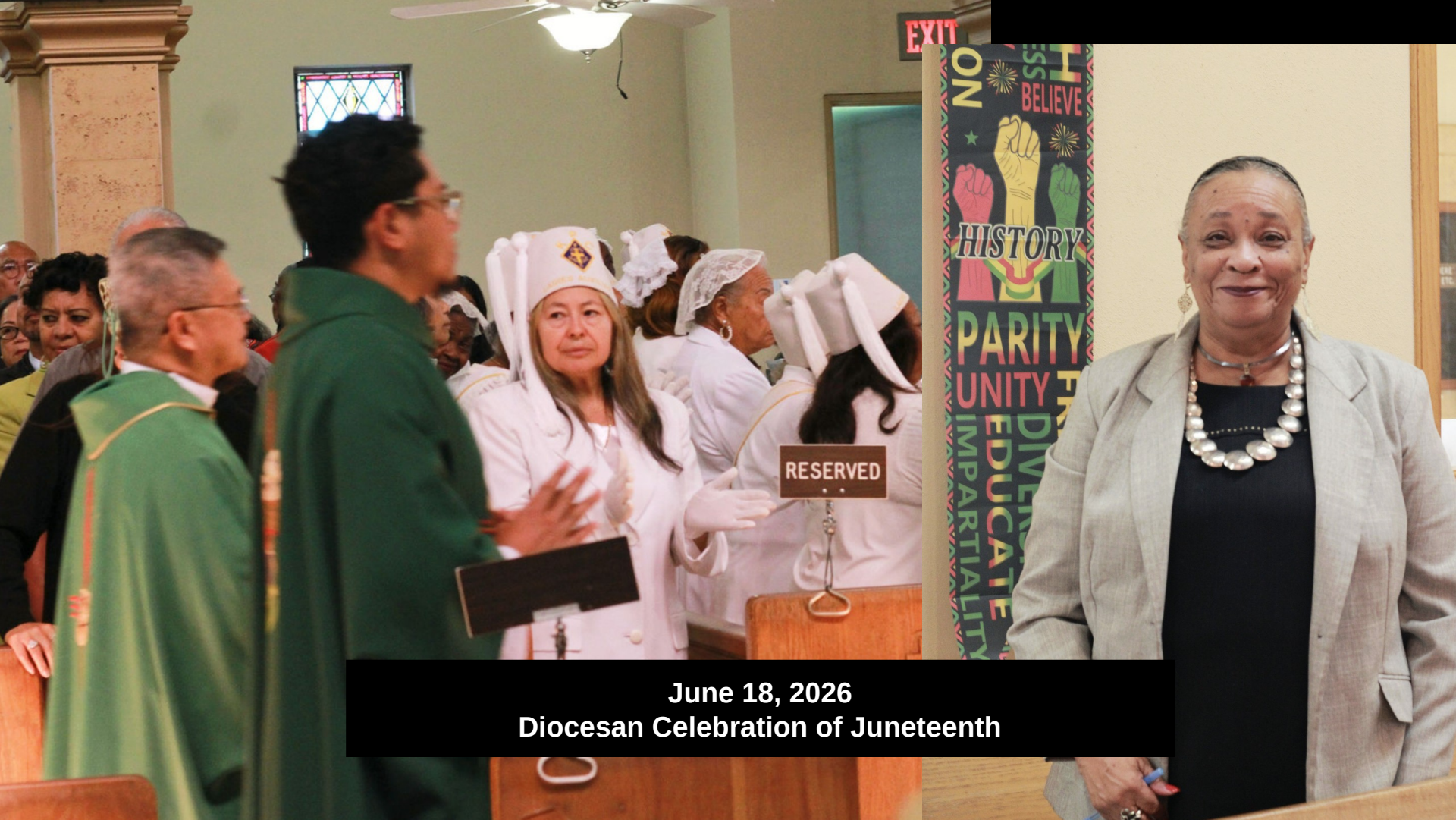
September 10, 2023
Mass for the Memorial of Saint Peter Claver
with Knights & Ladies of Peter Claver





September 18, 2023
Mass for the Memorial of Saint Peter Claver
with Knights & Ladies of Peter Claver


HOPE
FAITH
HISTORY
ALL ARE EQUAL IN THE EYES OF GOD
WELCOME
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
AFRICAN-AMERICAN FREEDOM DAY
ST.RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH
'THE MARIAN YEAR'



June 18, 2026
Diocesan Celebration of Juneteenth


June 18, 2026
Diocesan Celebration of Juneteenth


June 18, 2026
Diocesan Celebration of Juneteenth
Coincided with Father’s Day



Sunday, January 17, 10 AM Mass at St. Rita Catholic Church

2nd Annual Mass to promote **Martin Luther King, Jr. "Call to Service"**

Presider: Bishop Robert McElroy

Con-celebrants: Auxiliary Bishops John Dolan & Ramon Bejarano,
Very Rev. Fr. Michael Pham, Fr. Silverio Espenilla, Jr.

2021



January 18, 2026
Diocesan Celebration of Martin Luther King Call to Service



September, 2022
Diocesan Celebration for San Lorenzo Ruiz

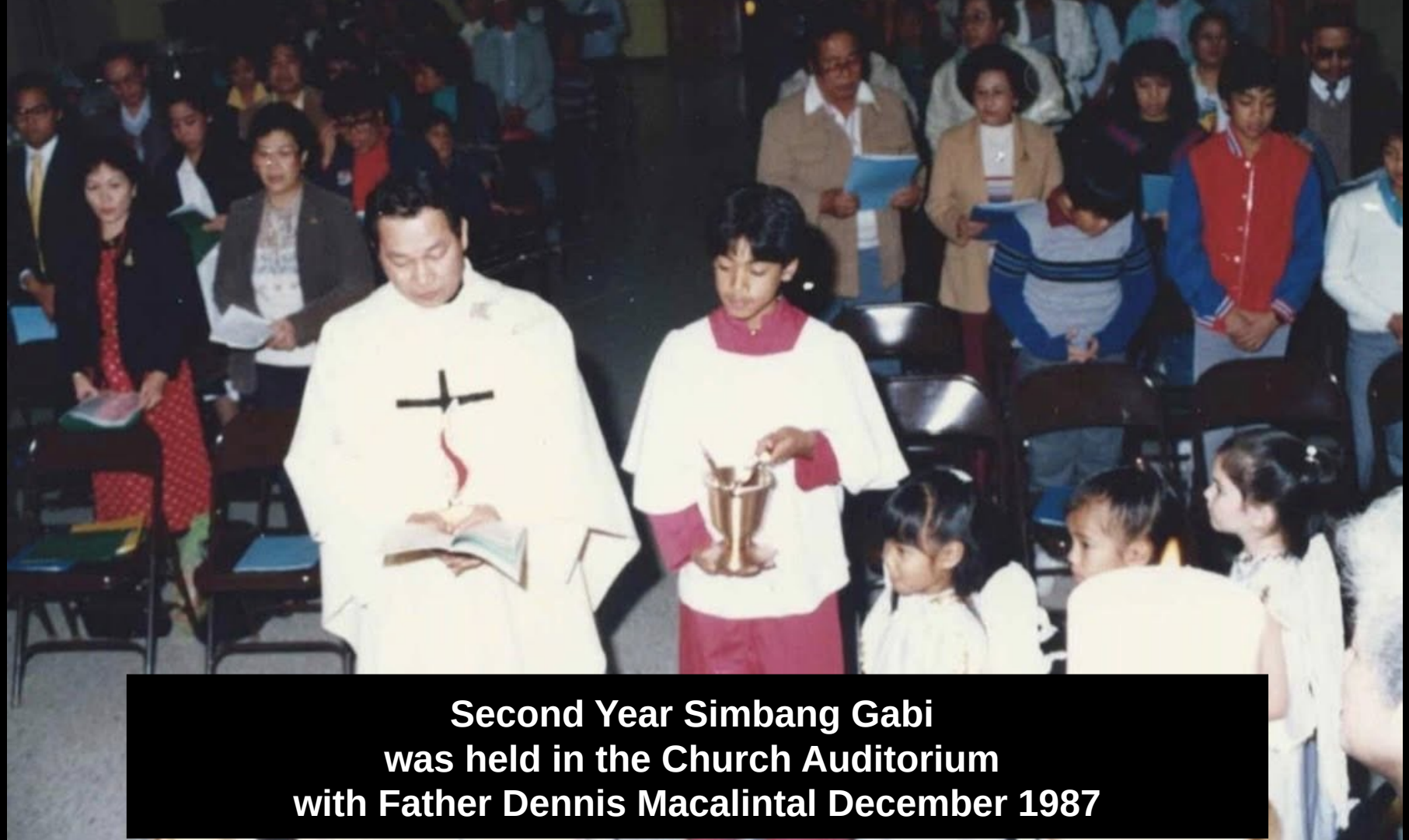


September, 2022
Diocesan Celebration for San Lorenzo Ruiz



September, 2022
Joint Choir Diocesan Celebration for San Lorenzo Ruiz

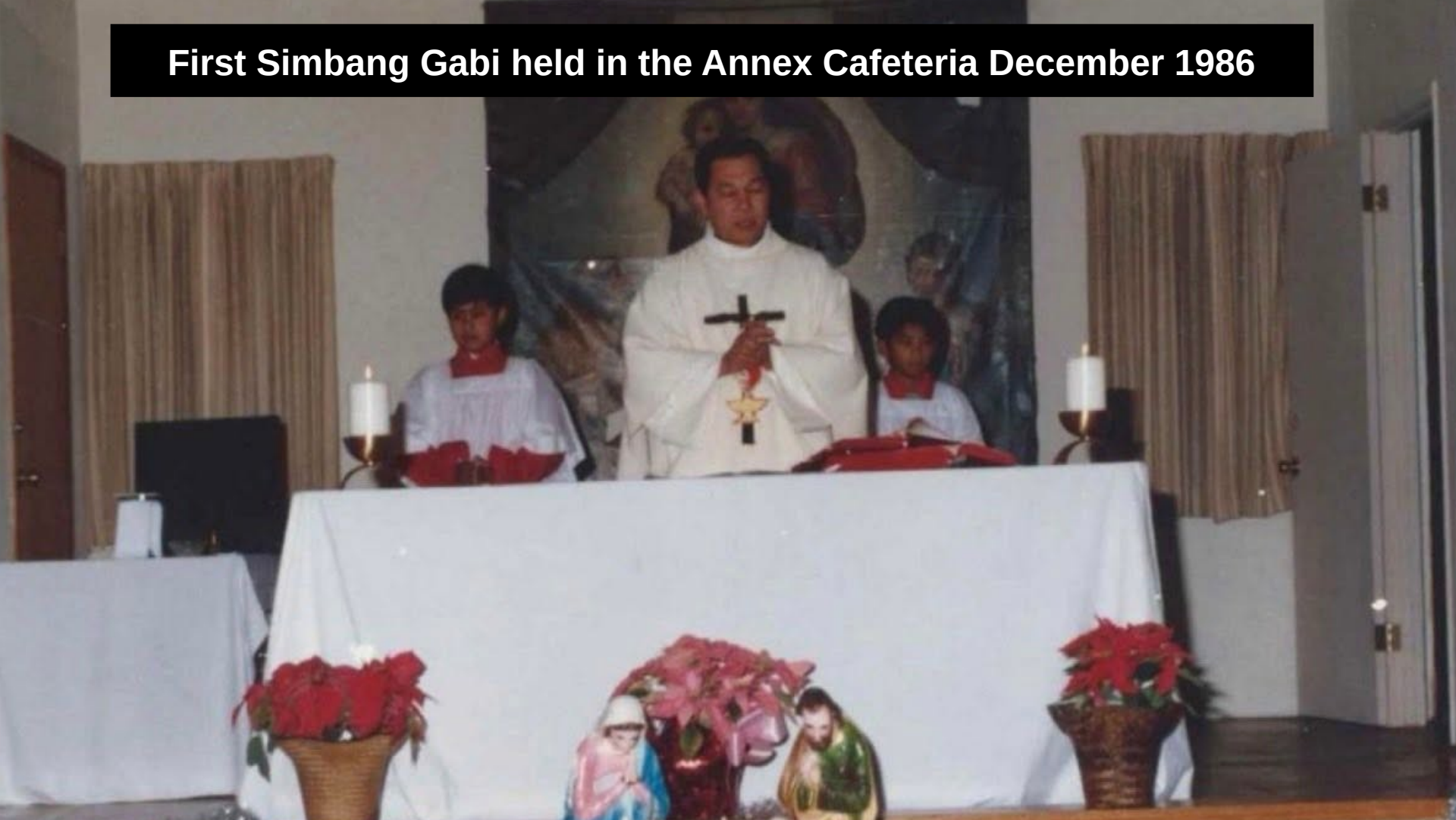

Lighting the Way to Christ
Handog ay Ilaw Patungo kay Kristo
Simbang Gabi



Second Year Simbang Gabi
was held in the Church Auditorium
with Father Dennis Macalintal December 1987



Simbang Gabi held in Church Auditorium December 1987


First Simbang Gabi held in the Annex Cafeteria December 1986



Simbang Gabi 2019


2nd day
SIMBANG GABI
SANCTUS
Simbang Gabi 2019


Simbang Gabi 2025


SIMBANG GABI 2024


SIMBANG GABI 2014
SKYY
VODKA



SIMBANG GABI 2014



SIMBANG GABI 2013

SIMBANG GABI 2014



SIMBANG GABI 2024




SIMBANG GABI 2024
Pabitin for the children


Filipino Community - Block III - Rosary Group
Purisima Labao initiated the Block Rosary in 1977
When additional blocks were added she selected Block III as her number

Mexican Independence Celebration
September, 2022





La Posada
December, 2022



Dia De Los Muertos Altar for the Parish to share their *Ofrenda* for their beloved deceased


Dia De Los Muertos Altar for the Parish to share
their *Ofrenda* for their beloved deceased





Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta
December 12, 2023



Our Lady of Guadalupe - Spanish Choir December 12, 2014

Mañanitas Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 12, 2020






Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta
December 12, 2022
EXIT


Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta
December 12, 2022





Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta
December 12, 2022


Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta
December 12, 2022


Our Lady of Guadalupe
Spanish Choir

Las Posadas
December 12, 2025







Las Posadas
December 12, 2025





Las Posadas
December 12, 2025

THE SOUTHERN CROSS



Samoan community gathers for annual Mass

Diocesan Catholic News


Samoan Community Rosary Devotion


Samoan Community Rosary Devotion


Samoan Community Rosary Devotion


Samoan Community enriching our Liturgy

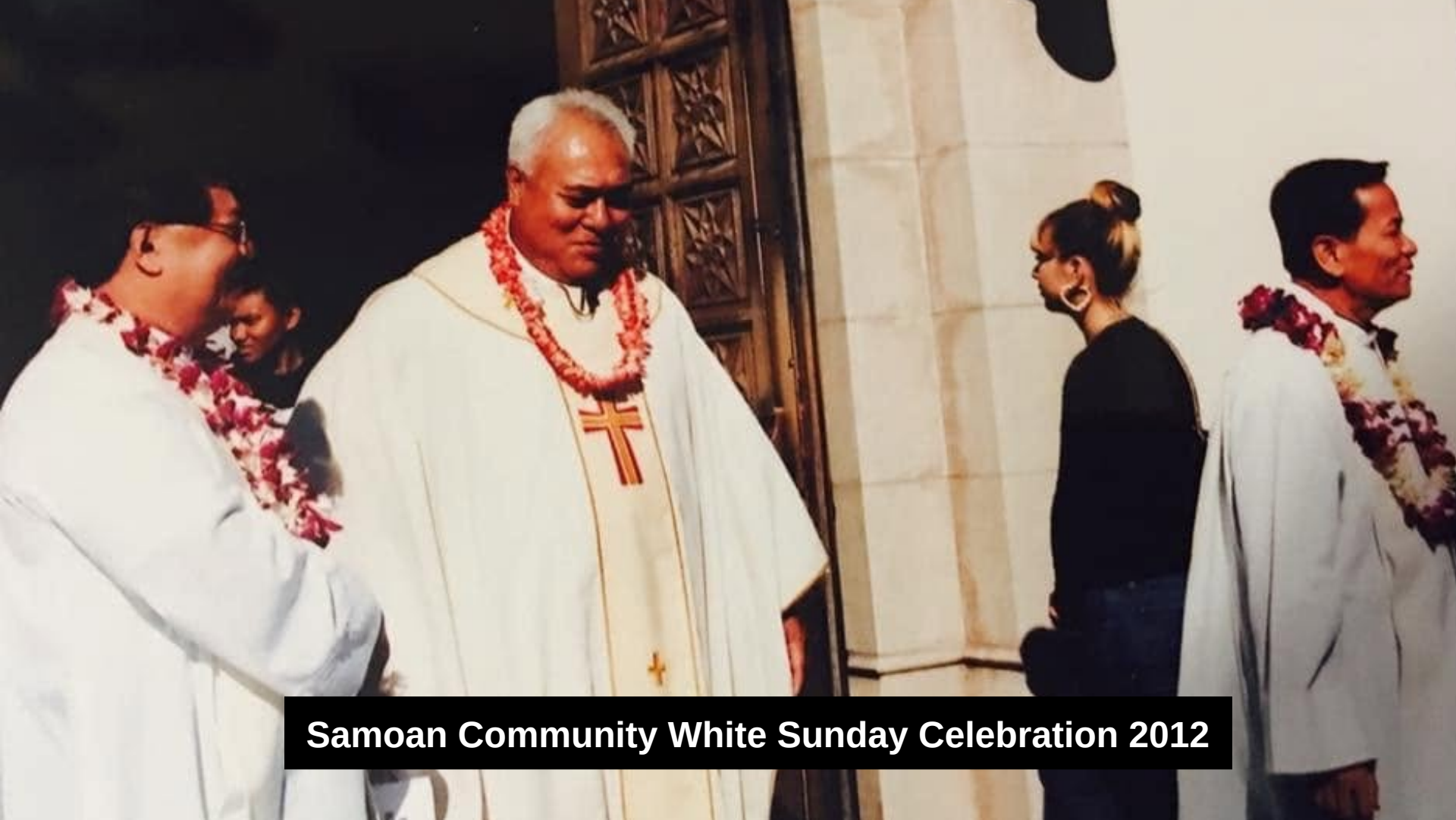

Twelfth Sunday in
Ordinary Time



Samoan Community Choir



Samoan Community Choir



Samoan Community White Sunday Celebration 2012









Samoan Community White Sunday Celebration


Samoan Community White Sunday Celebration



Samoan Community White Sunday Celebration





Samoan Community 40th Anniversary
November, 2024


Samoan Community White Sunday Fellowship


Samoan Community White Sunday Fellowship

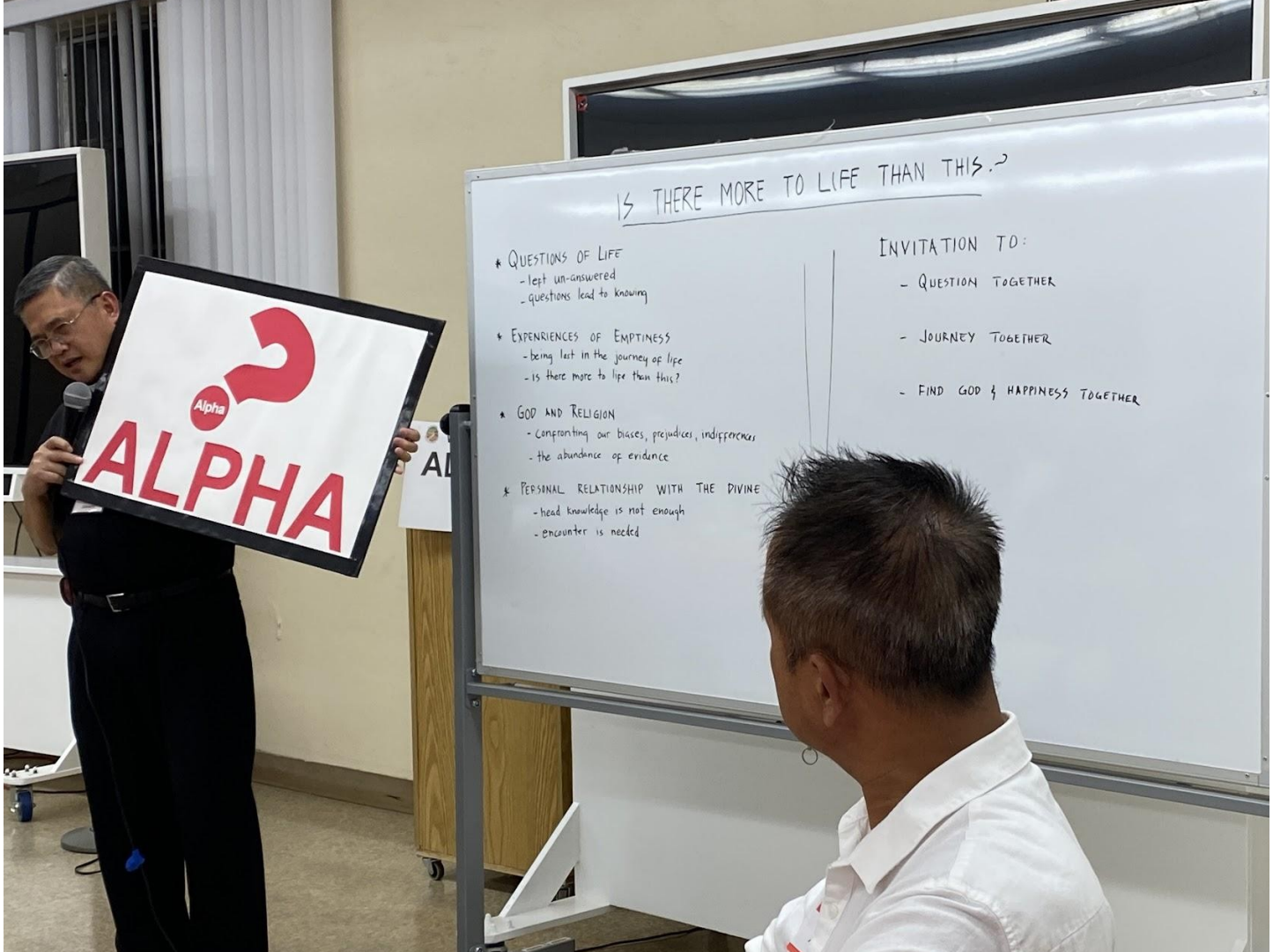


Rise Up Parish Retreat April 21, 2018

What started as the Parish Renewal in 2017 evolved into Alpha and led to the creation of the Discipleship Pathway Ministr


First Parish Alpha
September 27, 2018


Last Alpha before COVID March 3, 2020
Welcome to Alpha!


ALPHA
Alpha
IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS.?
* QUESTIONS OF LIFE
- left un-answered
- questions lead to knowing
* EXPERIENCES OF EMPTINESS
- being lost in the journey of life
- is there more to life than this?
* GOD AND RELIGION
- confronting our biases, prejudices, indifferences
- the abundance of evidence
* PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DIVINE
- head knowledge is not enough
- encounter is needed
INVITATION TO:
- QUESTION TOGETHER
- JOURNEY TOGETHER
- FIND GOD & HAPPINESS TOGETHER

Leading the Church in Synodality and Small Groups through Alpha




Welcome to
Alpha
St. Rita Catholic Church
San Diego, CA


The mission of the parish family of St. Rita is to
inspire and engage our diverse faith community
through Catholic formation
in prayer, study, and service
in order to build God's kingdom, present and future.


SANCTUS