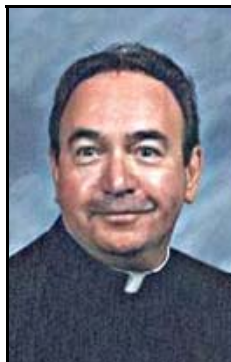


ABOUT OUR NEW PASTOR

REV. MICHAEL RATAJCZAK

Fr. Mike was born in Detroit, Michigan on September 28, 1948. His Catholic Education included grade school, high school and college, before entering St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Detroit on January 31st, 1975. He has an M. Div. from St. John Provincial Seminary and an M.A. from the University of Detroit.



In his 11 years as a Priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit, Fr. Mike served as the Associate Pastor of two Parishes, the Administrator of one, and the Pastor of another.

The youngest of six children, Fr. Mike, in 1986, followed the path of his four older brothers who moved to Southern California. His parents, Herman and Helen, both now deceased, came with him. Presently, many of the immediate members of the Ratajczak family live in the Vista/Oceanside area, and in other areas of Southern and Northern California, as well as in the States of Oregon, Hawaii, Arkansas, and Virginia. His sister and her family continue to live in the suburbs of Detroit.

In his 17 years in the Diocese of San Diego, Fr. Mike has served as Associate Pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Encinitas, and San Rafael, Rancho Bernardo, and Pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, San Diego, and Santa Sophia in Spring Valley where he has been for the past 8 years. During these years, he has incardinated into the Diocese of San Diego.

His entire ministry has been dedicated to serving the Church within Parishes, at the grass roots level, where the majority of Catholics nurture and strengthen their faith life and deepen their commitment to Gospel living through the Word, the Sacraments, Fellowship, and Service.

In coming to the Church of St. Thomas More, Fr. Ratajczak says:

“The Parish Faith Community is the most exciting and challenging place to be within the Church today. The variety and diversity of most Parish Communities rival the experiences of the early Church, and the challenge and struggle to be the Body of Christ in this time and place is no less real now than then. The Parish is sacred ground where all people are welcomed and encouraged to come together to share their stories of the ways in which Jesus Christ is calling them and inviting them to live out the Gospel within the Catholic Church. In that honest and respectful sharing, people respond to the Lord in praise and in service.

I have always enjoyed and have been enthusiastic about the challenges in all the Parishes in which I have served. I truly look forward to being the Pastor of this wonderful Faith Community that already has a strong and positive reputation in the Diocese. Finally, my gratitude is great for Fr. Peter McGuine, who has been so instrumental in making St. Thomas More the Faith Community that it is today. He has laid a strong foundation on which I will continue to build. We will always hold him in our thoughts and prayers as his journey with the Lord leads him to Rome and a new ministry.”

Fr. Mike will assume his duties as our pastor on July 1, 2003.