

Pastor's Column

Our New Youth Advocate

It was with great sadness that I accepted the resignation of Marc Raymundo as our Youth Advocate in January 2012.

Marc accepted an offer from Junipero Serra High School in San Juan Capistrano, to join their High School Ministry Team on a full-time basis.

J Serra's gain was definitely our loss! Marc did much in his short time with us to bring the youth, not only of our Parish but from the surrounding area, closer to Jesus and to the Church.

We are so grateful for the strong foundation that Marc created on which we will now build for the future.

In my discussions with Kathleen Bell, our Faith Formation Director, it became clear to us that we needed to make the Youth Advocate Position a full-time position. To best serve the Youth of our Parish, we need a person who would be with us full time to minister to our Youth and to integrate them more and more into the life of our Parish Family.

With that decision made, we began to advertise for a full-time Youth Advocate in early February.

We advertised nation-wide, and we had forty applicants!

An Interview Committee was created—Kathleen Bell, Christy De La Cova, Rory Griffin, Stacey Griffin, Will Mueller, Emma Stringer, Kathy Wilson, and me.

We began to review the forty applications and began the interviews for many of these applicants.

After three months of interviews, dialogues, and discussions, we agreed upon our #1 choice—Marcus Cabrera.

Marcus officially has begun his ministry with us on June 1. He will be attending a Life Teen Conference in Arizona from June 10-14 with Rory Griffin who has been our Interim Youth Advocate since January.

Marcus will then introduce himself to the Parish on the week-end of June 16-17.

A very special "Thank You!" goes to Rory Griffin who stepped in, at a time of need, to become the Interim Youth Advocate.

Rory, thank you for your great ministry and your deep commitment to the youth of our Parish. Know that all you have done is very much appreciated!

In the Bulletin today, you will find an article from Marcus in which he introduces himself to our Parish. Please take time to read it, and then to welcome him to our Parish after the Masses on the weekend of June 16-17.

F. n. Mike

Our Youth Advocate—Marcus Cabrera

I am originally from beautiful San Clemente, California but have been living in equally beautiful El Cajon, California as I finished my time at the University of San Diego.

As a recent USD college graduate (*I graduated May 26, 2012*), I majored in theology and minored in philosophy and psychology.

I have had the best experience sharing Christ with others and learning how incredibly deep is our Catholic Faith.

Throughout College, the Holy Spirit has guided me to different venues to teach and mentor youth and young adults, whether at the Diocesan Pastoral Center or projects at the US/Mexican border.

I have also worked as an intern Youth Minister at Holy Trinity Parish in El Cajon where I recently reconstructed the "Confirmation One" program, and have been involved as a "Missionary to AIDS Victims" in Mexico, and a translator to orphaned girls in Peru.

God has answered my prayer for a stronger and more vibrant Church by continuously using me to teach the Faith and live the Gospel.

I am very excited to give myself to you at St. Thomas More Parish.

St. Thomas More was an incredible martyr and leader of the Faith, and I will look to him for guidance and inspiration.

My hobbies include, when I am not signing autographs, playing my clarinet, road biking, rock climbing, and reading.

—Marcus Cabrera

