



# DIOCESE OF MONTEREY

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Dear Friends,

As I take my leave from all of you here in the Diocese of Monterey, I want to express my profound thanks to you for receiving me, welcoming me and working with me during these last seven months. I am grateful for your understanding and support since I was a stranger following your beloved Bishop Rich Garcia. It took me some time to get up to speed, to learn the history and then to make decisions that I hoped were in the best interests of the Diocese of Monterey.

During my time we were buffeted by revelations from outside the Diocese, but which nevertheless profoundly affected how we approached various concerns here in the Diocese. Some decisions were difficult and painful, decisions that I thought that I would never have to make in my lifetime.

I will always be grateful to your talented and hard-working Pastoral Staff, to the Clergy, to the priest Consultors, to the members of the Priest Personnel Board, to Religious Women and Men, and to all the laity for your input and wise counsel. Moreover, I am very happy with our wonderful group of seminarians. Our future is secure in their hands. In a special way I want to thank Bishop Sylvester Ryan for his advice and support.

So many of you have contacted me with supportive messages and I am grateful for your thoughts and prayers. I will always have fond memories of the people of the Diocese of Monterey and I look forward with eagerness to meeting you as our journey in the Lord continues.

I have every confidence in Bishop Danny Garcia and I know that the Diocese of Monterey is in good hands.

Bishop Jerry Wilkerson