

## *Our New Pastor* — Fr. Rodolfo Llamas (pronounced YAW-mah-sss)

“I was born on May 3, 1958, in Guadalajara, Jalisco State, Republic of Mexico, where God in his infinite Love prepared for me a beautiful family. I was the youngest of two brothers and two sisters with wonderful parents. And then, after six years of a loving experience of being ‘the youngest,’ God gave me wonderful gifts and blessings — another younger sister, and two years later, another brother. Thus, I am one of seven children: four brothers and three sisters. My father passed away twelve years ago, and currently, my family is awaiting the time very soon when God will take our loving mother, who is suffering a very weak life after almost 89 years. (It is my intention to take my summer vacation in the middle of July and I am worried I don't have that much time to see her.) During my regular studies, I always liked music and gave some time to learn piano. After my studies, I worked professionally with my musical skills. In the middle of my music career, I had an amazing encounter with Jesus at the end of 1980. Responding to God's goodness to me, I decided with His Grace to follow Him in a community of missionaries called the Verbum Dei (Latin for, “the Word of God”), a missionary fraternity founded in 1963, dedicated to evangelization by means of contemplation, witness of life, and apostolic ministry. The community consists of consecrated religious women, consecrated religious men (brothers & priests), and associated married couples. Following the call of missionary life with my religious order, I left everything as Jesus asks in the Gospel. I went to Spain to be formed as a missionary. I had wonderful experiences of spiritual growth in prayer, contemplation, spiritual exercises, mission formation, preaching, and community development. After my studies of philosophy and theology, I was ordained on July 3, 1993, in Valencia, Spain, by the hands of the Cardinal of Madrid, Angel Suquía, along with eleven other brother missionaries. After my ordination, I was sent to a mission in San Francisco, arriving in the United States on September 16, 1993, a day which began a whole new direction in my life. After many pastoral experiences, meeting and coming to appreciate the ministry of Bishop Richard Garcia, then auxiliary bishop here (and now the Bishop of Monterey), I accepted his invitation to come and serve the Diocese of Sacramento. My first assignment was in Woodland, at Holy Rosary Parish in October of 1998. Three years later, I accepted an assignment at St. John the Baptist in Chico. After a brief time there, I was appointed pastor in September 2002, serving as a co-pastor of St. Peter's and All Hallows Parishes. These became one parish, and I assumed sole responsibility as pastor as of September in 2004. In demonstration of my commitment to serve you, the people of the Diocese of Sacramento, I left my religious order, and became a priest of this diocese. Also, on July 9, 2004, I became an American citizen. Accepting Bishop Soto's appointment with joy, I look forward to coming to serve you.”



- Fr. Rodolfo Llamas