



I am honored to be your new pastor. St. Francis of Assisi Parish is known to be a vibrant and close-knit community. I feel blessed and excited to serve our faith community, and to work with the parish staff. As I take on the new role as your pastor, I look forward to learning not only the richness of the culture and tradition of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community, but also to getting to know as many of you. I know that this is my first assignment as a pastor, but I bring to the parish my experience as a manager in the hospitality industry to which I have come to learn that people are the most important part of any organization; and that they deserve the best service possible so that they can have a positive experience of the organization. Translated into the language of ministry this means that you, my dear parishioners, deserve only the best possible ministry that our Lord Jesus Christ desires you to have. This is only possible if we all work together as one Parish towards our shared mission and vision. To enable me to begin my role as your new Pastor, I intend to spend my first year understanding the history, the culture and tradition of our Parish.

And now I would like to share something about myself that you may get to know me as well. I am 55 years old, and was born in Manila, Philippines. I am the youngest of five children, and the only boy in the family. I was born on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4, 1967. I finished my elementary and high school from an institution ran by the Dominican Sisters, and earned my college degree from San Beda College ran by the Benedictines with a degree in Management. Prior to entering the seminary, I spent 15 years working in the hospitality industry particularly in the area of operations, training and human resources in the hotel and restaurant. I spent a few months with the Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCD) in San Jose, California before I decided to join the Diocese of San Jose in 2007. I earned my Bachelors Degree in Sacred Theology in 2017 at Saint Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park. I was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 2014 by the late Most Reverend Bishop Patrick Joseph McGrath at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph in San Jose. After my ordination, I was appointed Parochial Vicar at Queen of Apostles in San Jose for five years, and at the Church of The Ascension in Saratoga for four years. In both parishes I was responsible for the liturgical life of the parish, and the ministry to the sick/homebound.

Please feel free to visit me in the parish office, or approach me for a chat. As disciples of Christ, I pray that we will strive to imitate our patron, Saint Francis of Assisi to *“preach the Gospel at all times, if necessary, use words.”*