

To: The Catholic Herald Magazine  
From: Office of the Bishop  
Re: **Official Column** for Catholic Herald (November/December Issue)  
Date: September 15, 2023

**“Official”**

**Bishop Jaime Soto has made the following canonical appointments:**

PRIESTS

**Effective July 1, 2023**

Rev. Alvaro **Perez**, P.E.S., Pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, North Highlands, has been appointed Dean of American River Deanery.

**Effective July 15, 2023**

Rev. Lawrence **Kithinji**, Parochial Administrator of St. Anne Parish, Sacramento, has been appointed as Bishop’s Appointee to the Presbyteral Council.

Rev. Evan **Schwab**, FSSP, having been presented by his superior, has been appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Stephen the First Martyr Parish, Sacramento.

**Effective July 24, 2023**

Rev. Andrew J. **Opsahl**, O.P., having been presented by his superior, has been appointed Pastor of St. Dominic Parish, Benicia.

**Effective September 1, 2023**

Rev. George P. **Mathai**, C.M.I., having been presented by his superior, has been appointed half-time Parochial Vicar of St. Mary Parish, Sacramento, and half-time Chaplain of St. Francis High School, Sacramento.

**Bishop Jaime Soto, in consultation with the Priests’ Personnel Board has made the following canonical appointments:**

**Effective July 12, 2023**

Rev. Cirilo G. **Cervantes**, Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Redding, formerly a priest of the Diocese of Tijuana, has been incardinated into the Diocese of Sacramento

To: The Catholic Herald Magazine  
From: Office of the Bishop  
Re: **Official Column** for Catholic Herald (November/December Issue)  
Date: September 15, 2023

**The following notice is also given:**

**Effective June 30, 2023**

Rev. Cleetus P. **Karakkat**, previously Parochial Vicar of St. John the Baptist Parish, Folsom, has left the Diocese.

**Effective July 1, 2023**

Rev. Stephen **Braun**, FSSP, previously Parochial Vicar of St. Stephen the First Martyr Parish, Sacramento, has left the Diocese.

**Effective July 17, 2023**

Rev. Amrutha Pasala, a priest from the Diocese of Cuddapah, India, previously Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Redding, has left the Diocese.

**Effective July 31, 2023**

Rev. Thomas **O'Neill**, S.J., previously Parochial Vicar of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Sacramento, has left the Diocese.

DEACONS

**Effective July 17, 2023**

Deacon Anthony **Pescetti**, previously Deacon of St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Sacramento, has been appointed Deacon of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Sacramento.

**Effective July 20, 2023**

Deacon Jack **Davault**, Deacon of Holy Spirit Parish, Fairfield, has been granted a Leave of Absence.

**Effective August 1, 2023**

Deacon Michael **Bennett**, previously on a Leave of Absence, has been appointed Deacon of Holy Spirit Parish, Fairfield.

Deacon Eric **Hintz**, previously Deacon of Holy Spirit Parish, Sacramento, has been granted a Leave of Absence.

To: The Catholic Herald Magazine  
From: Office of the Bishop  
Re: **Official Column** for Catholic Herald (November/December Issue)  
Date: September 15, 2023

**Effective August 31, 2023**

Deacon Richard **Soria**, Deacon of St. Patrick's Parish, Grass Valley, has been granted permission to retire.

**Effective September 1, 2023**

Deacon Patrick S. **Kearns**, previously on a Leave of Absence, has been appointed Deacon of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Sacramento.

**In Memoriam**

Rev. Liam **McSweeney** died July 23, 2023, at the age of 87. Fr. McSweeney served the Diocese of Sacramento for over 60 years.



---

**Uli Schmitt**  
**Chancellor**

