

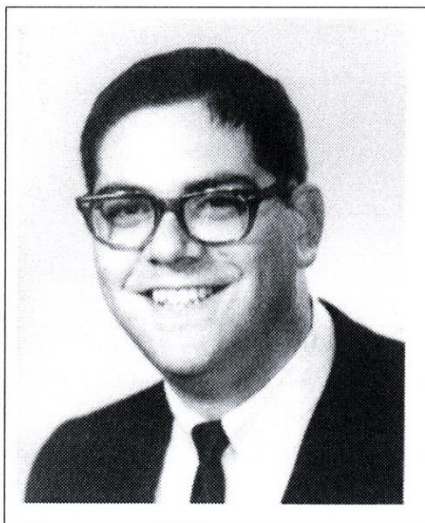
A tribute for our former seminarian Most Reverend Richard Garcia

**From the Saint Joseph's Seminary/College
Alumni Board and friends**



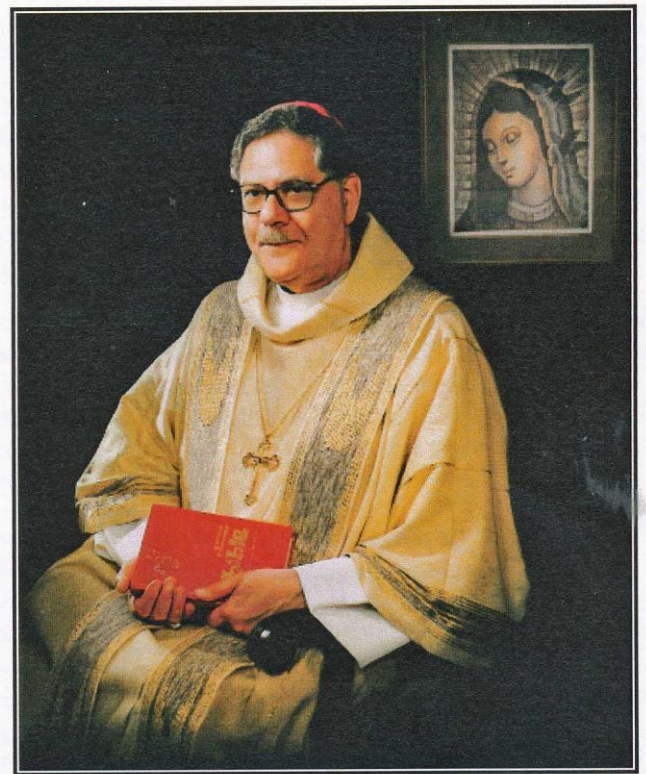
Richard J. Garcia

This picture was printed in "The Cupertino" Graduation Issue, June 2, 1965. It is Bishop Richard's high school picture. The students wanted to create a yearbook, but did not have the time. So the St. Joseph's high school newspaper staff 'saved the day.'



M.R. Richard J. Garcia, R'67

This picture is Bishop Richard's official Rhet'67 class picture. His class group picture is on a wall at St. Patrick's Seminary/University. Richard finished college in 1969 and was ordained in 1973, after 4 years of graduate school at Saint Pat's.



The Most Rev. Richard J. Garcia
April 24, 1947 - July 11, 2018



1981

Fr. Kevin Joyce, Fr. Richard Garcia,
Fr. Leo Rooney, Fr. Joseph Milani

Bishop Garcia's first priestly assignment was at St. Catherine's of Alexandra's church here in Morgan Hill. He was here from 1973 until 1977.

This picture is from our parish archives.

Bishop Garcia's predecessor was James McEntee (1965-1973), and his successor was Don Kohles (1977-1978). Our pastor at that time was Fr. (Msgr.) Joe Milani (1970-1981). This is an "all-star" list of very special people.

*His Excellency the Most Reverend
Richard John Garcia
Bishop of Monterey*

Most Reverend Richard John Garcia, the fourth bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Monterey in California died, Wednesday, July 11, 2018. Blessed with a deep faith in God and a life of priestly ministry, he passed into the loving embrace of his Heavenly Father. Bishop Garcia was diagnosed just three months ago with the onset of Alzheimer's Disease and experienced a very rapid decline in health.

Bishop Garcia, a native of San Francisco, California, was born on April 24, 1947 to Manual Garcia and Anita Maria Adame, both natives of Jalisco, Mexico. He attended St Joseph's High School Seminary in Los Altos Hills, California and received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, Ca. After pursuing doctoral studies in Dogmatic Theology in Rome from 1980-1984, he served on the faculties of both the college and graduate seminaries at St. Patrick's from 1985 to 1992.

Bishop Garcia was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ on June 15, 1973 for the Archdiocese of San Francisco at Sacred Heart Church in San Jose, California. In 1981, with the creation of the Diocese of San Jose, he continued to serve as a priest in Santa Clara County. He served as an associate pastor at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Morgan Hill, California. Before being appointed pastor of St. Leo the Great Parish in San Jose, California in 1995, Bishop Garcia served as the Vocations Director and the Vicar for Clergy.

In addition to serving as the Chairman of the Restorative Justice Committee for the California Catholic Conference of Bishops, Bishop Garcia also served as the chairman of CLINIC and on various committees for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops including the Migration and Refugee Committee and the Cultural Diversity Committee.

In 1997, he was named Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento by Pope John Paul II and was ordained a bishop on January 28, 1997. In December 2006, he was named the fourth bishop of Diocese of Monterey by Pope Benedict XVI and installed as the new Ordinary on January 30, 2007. He served the Church faithfully for over the forty-five years of his priesthood.

Bishop Garcia was known for his very personable, welcoming and friendly demeanor. As a spiritual shepherd, he had a special concern for the poor, the incarcerated, migrant workers and immigrant communities. He always had time for his priests, deacons, religious, seminarians and the people of God throughout the Diocese of Monterey.

Bishop Garcia had a special delight for children and was most compassionate to those with special needs. He was proud of his Mexican-American heritage and the diversity of cultures that are represented in the Church.

A correction: **In this obituary, the 3rd paragraph – future Bishop Richard served at St. Catherine's of Alexandria's church in Morgan Hill, CA, not at St. Catherine Siena parish**

FUNERAL MASS
July 19, 2018
Madonna del Sasso Pro Cathedral
Salinas, California



Most Reverend Richard J. Garcia
1947 - 2018
Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey



In paradisum deducant te angeli.....

21 JULY. 2018
SEMNET GRIEVING: Bishop Rich Garcia, R 67, SPS 73

Thousands attended the various services over four days in Monterey and Salinas, and the Funeral Mass on July 19. The video of the Mass is also on You Tube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQ_qYixezMQ

There is, and will be more, on the Alumni Association Facebook Page, website and newsletter.

Here is local news coverage.

KSBW 8: Thousands mourn loss of Bishop Richard Garcia

SALINAS, Calif. —

Every pew in Madonna Del Sasso Church in Salinas was full Thursday morning for Bishop Richard Garcia's funeral mass.

An estimated 2,000 people were in attendance at the mass and another 600 filled the overflow tent outside. The crowd a testament to the impact Garcia had on the central coast.

"?He was a person who was just filled with love probably one of the most effective bishops I've ever met," said Priest Michael Russo a personal friend of the Bishop's.

Russo said Garcia was a great spriritual leader who care less about the structure of the Diocese of Monterey and more about the people in his flock.

Bishop Garcia passed away a week ago Wednesday after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, he was 71. The funeral mass followed a week of viewings and vigils that started on Monday.

As leader of the Diocese the Bishop served four counties from Santa Cruz to San Luis Obispo, encompassing 900 priests and 200,000 catholics.

The mourners came from all over California.

"He always had an attitude of being very friendly, and I do remember him having a very large laugh, and just having an inviting personality," said Cal Poly student Abbey Scholle.

Scholle said the Bishop bless a new chapel at the Newman Center at Cal Poly and she a a group of fellow students from the center drove up for the mass.

Two cardinals, 23 bishops and 110 priests were in attendance. The Archbishop of Los Angeles Jose Gomez presided over the mass. The Diocese of Monterey sits in the northern most part of the territory Gomez oversees.

"It was quite a big turn out, I felt really fortunate as being the faithful navigator for our assembly to be part of this celebration to send Bishop off," said Chuck Debord one of the Knights of Columbus in attendance.

In total there were 26 Knights in full regalia who participated in the funeral.

Following the service pallbearers carried Garcia out to the music of a mariachi band. The bishop was a native of San Francisco and the son of immigrants from Jalisco Mexico and having the band play at his service was one of his final wishes.

The Bishop was laid to rest at San Carlos Cemetery in Monterey.