



NEWS RELEASE

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

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FUNERAL MASS AUG. 11 FOR RENOWNED PRIEST, COMMUNITY LEADER

SAN DIEGO, Aug. 9, 2016 – A funeral Mass will be held Thursday, Aug. 11, at 10 a.m. for Father Henry Rodriguez Jr., well known across the region for his decades-long community service.

“Father Henry,” as he was known, died suddenly from pneumonia on Aug. 4. He was 61 years old.

A Vigil will be held Wednesday, Aug. 10, at 7 p.m., at St. Jude Shrine of the West Parish, 1129 South 38th St., San Diego. The funeral Mass the next day also will be at St. Jude’s, with Msgr. Edward Brockhaus, a long-time friend, the principal celebrant.

Father Rodriguez was ordained for the diocese on July 12, 1986. He served as associate pastor at St. Rose of Lima parish in Chula Vista from 1986 to 1989. He became the associate pastor St. Jude’s parish in Southcrest in 1989, and become pastor there in 1997, serving in that capacity until December of 2005.

In the ensuing years he filled in at parishes across the diocese, particularly those that served Latino congregations.

He served as the Catholic chaplain for the San Diego Police Department and San Diego Fire and Rescue Department for more than 25 years. In recent years he also served as chaplain for San Diego Hospice and Scripps Mercy Hospital.

For decades, he played a leadership role in the San Diego Organizing Project and other community organizations, advocating for social justice on a variety of fronts. He was a frequent speaker at forums and participated in neighborhood fairs, particularly in the Southcrest neighborhood around St. Jude’s.

On July 1, Father Henry became the pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, where he celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination. As pastor, he had begun preliminary outreach to the LGBT community, meeting with parishioners and their families.

Burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery immediately following the funeral Mass on Thursday.

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San Diego Diocese

The Diocese of San Diego runs the length of California’s border with Mexico and serves more than 1 million Catholics in San Diego and Imperial Counties. It includes 98 parishes, 51 elementary and secondary schools and various social service and family support organizations throughout the region. The diocese also includes five historic sites, the most well known of which is the Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, the first mission established in California by St. Junipero Serra in 1769.