

FRATERNITY OF FATHERHOOD

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A SPIRITUAL FRATERNITY
FOR ALL MEN



Fr. Santan Pinto
SOLT
Founder of The Fraternity
of Fatherhood

This Issue is Dedicated to Deacon Ray Emnace

Original core team member and contributor to The Fraternity of Fatherhood

Tribute to Deacon Ray

- Michael Allison

When I learned how ill Deacon Ray had become, I had an overwhelming desire to be with my friend. We did not physically see each other often as we live on opposite ends of the state of California, but a true friendship rooted in Christ Jesus has endured between us for nearly 25 years. We spoke on the phone and shared texts, but nothing replaces presence.

I had the great blessing of visiting with Deacon Ray about four weeks before he passed. What was intended to be a short 15 minute visit turned into a nearly 2 hours of intimate conversation, laughter, a toast with his daughters and silent sitting, with my friend.

For us men who belong to this Fraternity of Fatherhood, we can first thank God that He has entrusted to us such a high calling as Fatherhood. Then we may thank Father Santan Pinto.

Father Pinto was the founder of the Disciples of Jesus and Mary and of the Apostolate we call, "The Fraternity of Fatherhood."

As for living out this gift of Fatherhood in an exceptional fashion, I owe a debt of gratitude to Deacon Ray.



Deacon Ray Chris Emnace
SEPTEMBER 21, 1962 - JULY 18, 2026
ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE
AUGUST 22, 2020

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Deacon Ray Emnace



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Over the years, I had the opportunity to serve at Mass as an altar server with him at retreats given by Father Pinto. Deacon Ray had such a calm, cool confident manner about him. I always knew I could look to him and follow his lead as to not embarrass myself, and believe me he saved me from that many times.

Father Pinto set the standard of expectation for men going through the Fatherhood formation as explained here in this excerpt from Father's letter to priests.

"The purpose of this formation is to invite men to take their rightful place in the Church as servants. Men trained in formation become the resource that

the pastors can depend on to serve the local Church. They have the responsibility as a father, husband and brother.

They learn to become the men that will give their family, their home and the Church; the security and well being that it needs. Men have to learn to be the leaven in the world. The workplace, their home and their Church is where they find the challenges and graces to grow in holiness. Here they are invited to witness to their faith, their hope and their love."

Deacon Ray took this to heart and put these words into actions. He lived these words. The depth of his service and love was validated at his funeral by the attendance of so many who he touched and served including two bishops, 28 priests, nearly 70 Deacons, as well as his beloved daughters, family, friends and parishioners by the hundreds.

Brothers, let us show our honor and gratitude to Deacon Ray and his family by also living out our Fatherhood in a loving sacrificial fashion, and make the words that we learn and share as brothers in Christ, be a witness to the love that Jesus shows to us and to His Church.

I ask you brothers to please keep Deacon Ray's daughters Ariana and Rosalina in your prayers as if they were your own daughters. Thank you, Deacon Ray for your friendship and brotherhood in Christ.



God is Good

Brendan McVicker

The first time I met Deacon Ray was at the very start of forming the Fraternity of Fatherhood. It had to be right around the year 2000. Father Pinto was the Retreat Master for a Men's Retreat in Southern California and he asked Deacon Ray and myself to present as part of the retreat. I remember arriving and meeting Deacon Ray for the first time and to my shock also finding out that Father Pinto could not make the trip. And on top of that, Fr. Pinto now put us in charge of continuing on and leading the retreat and presenting our material. Well, I know I turned white as a sheet and an instant lump filled my stomach. But thank heaven for Deacon Ray. Talk about "cool as a cucumber" and one of the most confident people I have ever met. All I heard from Deacon Ray was, Brendan we got this, we got this, we can do this ... God is Good. God is Good. Ray was so calm and so confident that it couldn't help but wear-off on you. Well, yes we did go forward, we finished that retreat and because of Deacon Ray I think we did a pretty good job. You are right Deacon Ray, God is Good!

Since that first encounter I have had several opportunities to work and spend time with Deacon Ray. I will surely miss him. He had a smile that filled the room, and a hearty laugh to go with it. He was a fun person. He loved his family deeply, his faith and he loved to share it.

Deacon Ray once used these words to describe Fr. Pinto, but as I read them I also saw Deacon Ray so clearly in them...."He attracted people, always building and encouraging everyone he came into contact with; he pushed us to grow and expand - after spending time with him, one felt uplifted, renewed, loved and cared for" and that too is Deacon Ray's legacy. God is Good!

A Tribute to Deacon Ray Emnace

Stacey Hill

I first Met Deacon Ray in Reno when he was here for a visit and to assist Fr. Pinto. Over the years that followed I was able to be with him in person several times. He was one of those rare souls whose presence quietly shaped the lives around him. As a friend, he was steady, humble, and deeply faithful never seeking attention yet always offering strength. His kindness is the kind that doesn't announce itself; it simply shows up.

As a father, he has been a living witness to what love looks like in practice. His devotion to his family reflects the heart of a man who understands that fatherhood is not only a role but a vocation. He led with gentleness, protection with courage, and taught with the quiet authority of someone who lived what he believed. Through his example, he showed that true fatherhood is measured not in grand gestures, but in daily faithfulness, sacrifice, and joy.

In his ministry, I saw Deacon Ray as steady, compassionate, and rooted in Christ. He has touched countless lives simply by being who he is: a man of prayer, integrity, and deep humility. His friendship is a gift, his fatherhood an inspiration, and his witness a blessing to all who know him.

I will Certainly be keeping Dcn. Ray in my prayers along with his daughters. He will be greatly missed.

Advent Blessing—Waiting on Purpose

Dcn. Ray Emnace

Waiting on Purpose 12/10/2025

May this Advent season teach you to wait—not with frustration, but with faith and courage.

May you learn that waiting is allowing God to quietly prepare your heart for the blessings He already has in motion.

May your waiting strengthen your trust, steady your courage, and deepen your hope.

May you come to believe that God is working in you shaping your character, guiding your steps, and drawing you closer to who you were created to be.

May you wait on purpose—with patience, prayer, and confidence— knowing that God’s timing is always perfect and His promises are always faithful.

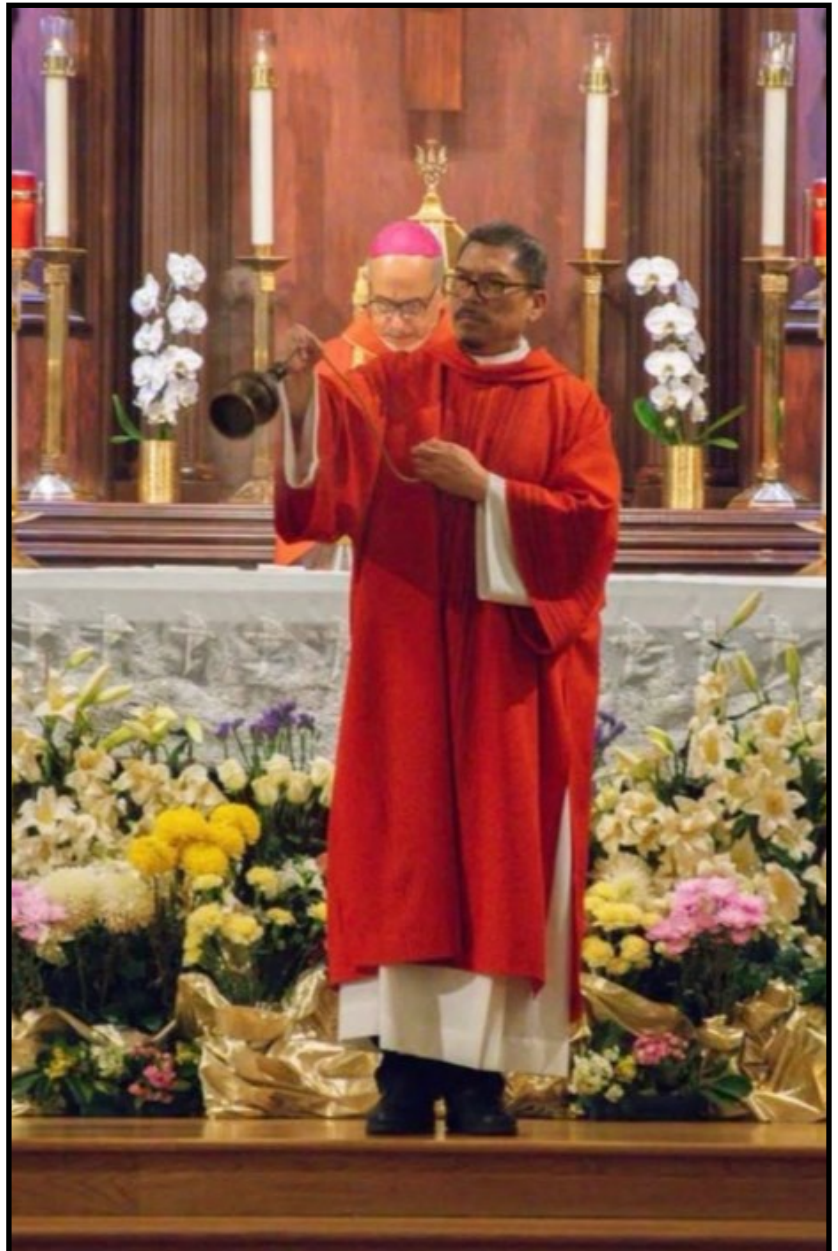
And as you wait for the coming of Christ this Advent, may your heart be open to receive Him— not just as a child in a manger, but as the Savior who walks with you each day and leads you forward with peace.

May the Lord bless your waiting, fill your hearts with expectant hope, and remind you that you are never waiting alone.

And may the God who keeps His promises bless you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Deacon Ray Emnace



Homily Given by : Deacon Ray—*The Cross Proves Everything*

Ray Emnace, Los Angeles Fatherhood Fraternity member, was ordained to the diaconate on August 22nd, 2020. We are happy to share his homily from August 30th, 2020.

The Cross is a sign of contradiction. Before Calvary it was a sign of disgrace – it was the depiction of humiliation, torture, pain, and death.

Christ made it a thing of glory and power, He made it our path to salvation.

Why not put scenes of Christ's birth above every altar, or of His resurrection, or ascension?

Because, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." This is what the Gospel points to.

Taking up our Cross is taking up the Cause of Christ.

Christ dying on the cross was the perfect, loving act of obedience that reversed the disobedience of Adam in the Garden of Eden.

With His arms stretched wide and raised between heaven and earth, Christ reconciled us to God and bridged the gulf opened by sin.

In today's First Reading Jeremiah laments all the ridicule and suffering he endures for the Lord's cause.

- Jeremiah was called to be the Lord's prophet in a time when people preferred their own counsel and wished for an easy solution to their problems that didn't involve faith or sacrifice.
- He is dejected because his mission is as hard as he imagined, but he let the Lord talk him into it anyway.
- When facing the hardship of decisions made, we often ask ourselves, "What was I thinking?" Jeremiah is having one of those moments.
- Despite difficulty and dejection, he burns inside to carry on, because he knows he is heralding the truth, something no one can turn their back on.
- He knows his message will save his people.

In today's Gospel Our Lord teaches us that the cross is a part of our life whether we want it or not, and what matters is how we face it and why we face it.

There is also another cross I wish to talk about. Mass begins with something that most of us probably take for granted, and hardly think about. We do it so often...we make the sign of the cross.



Deacon Ray Emnace at his ordination Mass in 2020.

THE CROSS PROVES EVERYTHING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Allow me to share a story about the sign of the Cross.

In April of 1945 American artillery in the town of Siegburg, Germany (south east of Cologne), was shelling a nearby village, in which there were about 20 German soldiers. The natives were in constant danger of being hit by bullets from either side. Toward evening of April 12, the people persuaded the German soldiers to cease fire.

Next morning the village priest carried a white flag to the American outpost to inform the commander that the German soldiers had gone, and the civilian population had no desire to resist further. Instructions were given to fly white flags from all the houses.

The question in the minds of the townspeople was: How will the Americans treat us? They had heard terrible tales of cruelty on the part of the Russians. How would these conquerors act?

The Americans began a thorough search for weapons and German soldiers. Two American soldiers armed with pistols came to a certain three-bedroom home. They stopped short in the living room before a hand-carved family altar. Into the bedroom they went, and there was a beautiful crucifix hanging on the wall.

The soldiers noticed the cross. They stopped, took off their helmets, and respectfully made the sign of the cross. A family member saw this and shared with the rest of the family that they would be safe - the American soldiers made the sacred sign.

Yes, the sign of the cross is made by a follower of Christ whether he is conqueror or conquered, whether he is German, Filipino, Hispanic, or American. It is the sign of the Christian. In particular, it is the special sign of a Catholic. The sign of the cross is one of the most important and one of the most frequently used of the sacramentals.

Why do we make the sign of the cross? To remind us of the Blessed Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Ghost. We bless ourselves in their names. To remind us that the Son of God died on a cross for all men. And to remind us that we too must take up our own Cross.

When we make the sign of the cross and pray the sign of the cross, we make ourselves an offering, and a prayer. May God bless us all in the Name of the Father who created us, and of the Son who redeemed us on the Cross, and of the Holy Spirit who strengthens us. Amen.



Fraternity of Fatherhood—Group locations & Area Coordinators

Fr. Pinto has encouraged us to grow and expand the Fraternity of Fatherhood all over the world. He has granted us his permission, his blessing and we trust that he guides us spiritually in this Apostolate. It is with this confidence that we now move forward with humility, obedience and docile hearts. If you are interested in joining a Fraternity of Fatherhood group or if you would like to start a group in your city contact Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker.

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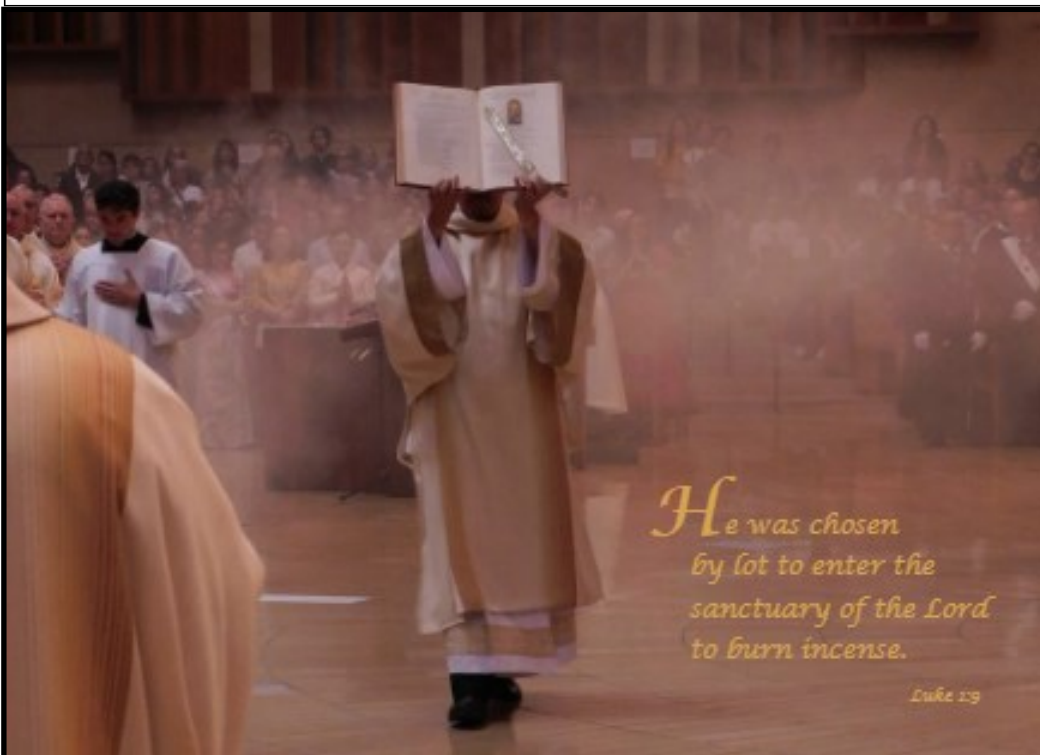
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Deacon Ray served at Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi at the conclusion of the Camino de California Eucharistic Pilgrimage 2025 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels

POSTAGE

Fraternity of Fatherhood

**We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage
of St. Joseph.**



St. Joseph ...Pray For Us.



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