



# NEWS RELEASE

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

## FATHER HENRY RODRIGUEZ DIES

SAN DIEGO, Aug. 4, 2016 – The San Diego Catholic Diocese announced today the sudden death from pneumonia of Father Henry Rodriguez Jr., one of the local Church’s most recognizable community leaders.

“Father Henry,” as he was known, was ordained for the diocese on July 12, 1986. His most recent assignment was to serve as pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, where he arrived this summer. Previously, he was the long-time pastor at St. Jude Shrine of the West in San Diego’s Southcrest neighborhood.

He frequently accompanied Bishop Robert McElroy at special events and celebrations, particularly those serving the Latino community.

Father Rodriguez served as the Church liaison to many community groups and organizations, including the San Diego Police Department, where he served as chaplain. He also served as chaplain at Mercy Hospital and hospice care. And he will be remembered for his spiritual outreach to the LGBT members in our community.

On many weekends and evenings he could be seen attending street festivals and speaking at special events, often featuring leaders from other sectors, faiths, races and ethnicities.

Father Rodriguez’s Vigil will be Aug. 10, at 7 p.m., with Father John Dolan presiding, at St. Jude Shrine of the West Parish, 1129 South 38<sup>th</sup> St., San Diego.

The Funeral Mass will also be at St. Jude Shrine of the West Church on Aug. 11, at 10 a.m. The principal celebrant will be Monsignor Edward Brockhaus, a longtime friend.

Burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery immediately following the Funeral Mass.

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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.