

MICHAEL C. BARBER, S.J.
BISHOP OF OAKLAND



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Dear Parishioners,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today. I am sure many of you are also saddened by the fact that the beloved Dominicans are leaving St. Mary Magdalen. I understand the very valid reasons for their decision, which has been made with thoughtful and prayerful discernment. But I also recognize that their presence here in the East Bay Area, which actually predates the founding of St. Mary Magdalen, has enriched so many thousands and thousands of lives. We will miss them.

Even before Archbishop Edward Hanna opened St. Mary Magdalen and assigned Dominican Father Francis Pius Driscoll as its first pastor in 1923, Dominicans had been ministering to people in this area. We can take comfort in knowing that they will continue to minister to the people of God on the West Coast.

Please join me in praying for them, as they adjust and renew their commitment to community life. I look forward to working with Father Schlichte and others to make this transition as smooth as possible, with our ultimate goal being to keep St. Mary Magdalen the vibrant community of faith it is today.

I am grateful for your dedication that has also contributed to the faith of St. Mary Magdalen. Thank you for all that you do; I will be remembering each of you in a special way this Advent and Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Michael Barber S.J.

Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, SJ
Bishop of Oakland

For the greater glory of God