



The Ecumenical Catholic Servants of The Good Shepherd, ECSGS  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

-----  
500 E. Imperial Hwy., Brea, CA 92821 tel. 714-647-1773, 714-808-8983

## Pastoral Message for the New Year 2026: Walking Forward with Concrete Hope

Dear Clergy, Religious, and Faithful of the Diocese of the Ecumenical Catholic Servants of the Good Shepherd,

Grace and peace to you as we welcome the New Year 2026 in the light of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd—who guides us, sustains us, and calls us forward with hope.

The beginning of a new year invites us not only to look back with honesty, but to look ahead with faith. As a Diocese, we enter 2026 grateful for God’s faithfulness throughout the past year, aware of the challenges that remain before us, and committed to walking together with renewed trust in the Spirit.

### **Remembering Where We Have Been**

The year now past has been one of listening and discernment. We have faced real questions about sustainability, leadership, intercultural ministry, and our shared responsibility as Church. We have been reminded that our strength does not come from numbers or resources alone, but from fidelity to the Gospel and our willingness to serve as the Good Shepherd serves—especially among the poor, the immigrant, the young, and the marginalized.

In moments of prayer, dialogue, and action, we have seen signs of a living Church: communities choosing solidarity, youth giving witness through justice-oriented action, and parishes striving to remain rooted in faith while responding to the realities of our time.

### **Entering 2026 with Concrete Hope**

As we step into 2026, I invite the entire Diocese to embrace **concrete hope**—hope that is lived, practiced, and embodied in our daily choices.

This hope calls us to:

- Renew our commitment to prayer, the sacraments, and communal life
- Strengthen parish identity grounded in shared mission and responsibility
- Form clergy and lay leaders who serve with humility, integrity, and accountability
- Accompany our youth and families with compassion and meaningful formation
- Remain a Church of conscience, standing for human dignity, justice, and peace

- Live simply and responsibly, ensuring the sustainability of our ministries for the future

Hope is not passive. It is born when we choose communion over division, mission over maintenance, and trust over fear.

### **A Personal Invitation for the New Year**

As your bishop, I invite each member of our Diocese in this new year to make at least one intentional commitment that strengthens our common life: deeper participation in parish life, support for formation or outreach, accompaniment of young people, bridge-building across cultures and languages, or faithful prayer for the Church and the world.

No act of hope is too small when it is offered with love.

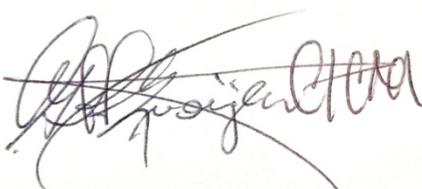
### **Walking Together as Servants of the Good Shepherd**

The Good Shepherd walks with the flock, especially when the path is uncertain. As we begin 2026, let us trust that Christ goes before us and remains among us. We move forward not alone, but together—as Servants of the Good Shepherd, called to heal, to serve, and to witness with joy.

May this New Year be a time of renewed faith, courageous love, and concrete hope for our Diocese and for all whom we serve.

Entrusting you and our Diocese to the care of Christ the Good Shepherd and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I remain.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

✠  

**The Most Rev. Arturo Querijero Ferreras, D.D., ECSGS**  
*First Presiding Bishop,  
The Diocese of the Ecumenical Catholic Servants of the Good Shepherd.  
Pacific Southwestern Region of California, USA*