

New Evangelization & Faith Formation Director

With great excitement, St. Brendan Parish welcomes Manolito Jaldon as our new Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation, beginning July 1, 2017. For the past ten years, Manolito has been a seminarian at Mount Angel Seminary in Portland, Oregon and Saint Patrick's Seminary & University in Menlo Park, California.

During his journey in discernment of ordained priestly ministry, Manolito has ventured throughout the world with Catholic youth, undertaking pilgrimages to Rome and leading major catechetical sessions in Sydney and Madrid for the triennial World Youth Day instituted by Pope John Paul II. He has facilitated countless Confirmation retreats and Catholic renewal retreats for youth and young adults all over the Bay Area and is a widely sought-after speaker. For several years, Manolito also has been engaged to speak for the youth and young adult track at the Northern California Renewal Coalition (NCRC), held each year at the Santa Clara Convention Center.

His experience includes teaching music and religion to students in all grades at the Holy Spirit School in Fairfield, California and at Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Sacramento. Recently, he was the recipient of the Diocese of Sacramento's Marello Award for Youth and Young Adult Ministry for rejuvenating the young adult ministry in Holy Spirit parish, which was the largest in the county at the time. Manolito also has served as Director of Religious Education at Saint Joseph Parish in Lincoln, California.

After much discernment and prayer, the extensive chapter of pursuing priestly ministry has reached its final page for Manolito. Yet, knowing that the Lord refashions our dreams and hopes in the joy of remaining faithful to God and following where he leads, a new chapter begins with St. Brendan Parish, as Manolito comes to serve our community.

Over the next few months, he will be meeting with several members of the parish leadership team to learn the rich traditions of our parish. In that capacity, he will be responsible for developing programs to renew the faith of our parishioners and bring others to a deeper



knowledge of Jesus Christ. For instance, Manolito will develop a program called Alpha, a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Alpha has been taken by more than 30 million people around the globe. "Manolito is perfect for organizing this major effort to evangelize millennials and others," said Father Roger. "He's a natural at engaging people in the faith."

He also will plan, lead, and teach faith formation programs for adults, teens, and children. "I have asked Manolito to work toward building on the great faith formation programs we already have," said Father Roger. "Within a three to five-year period, we will create a comprehensive faith formation ministry that will complement and collaborate with the sacramental preparation programs at our parish school." Manolito and Father Roger also will work together to strengthen the parish's adult faith formation program. "Manolito is an outstanding speaker who engages audiences," said Father Roger. "He will add tremendous value to what we currently offer the adults in our parish."

In addition, Manolito will develop and lead a youth ministry program. "For many years, Stacey Simpson and Gus del Puerto have been providing outstanding youth ministry to St. Brendan School students from the fifth to the eighth grades," said Father Roger. "Manolito will partner with them to see how he can help and possibly continue youth ministry for high school students within the parish." He also will serve as a kind of lay chaplain for students at the school, helping to plan and lead various retreats at the older grade levels and working with teachers to prepare students for Confirmation.

"I look forward to continuing the work of Sister Catherine and collaborating with Father Roger and the pastoral staff," said Manolito. "We are so blessed that the timing was right," Father Roger explained. "Manolito brings so much knowledge and experience that will benefit our parish. If you see him around campus, please welcome him. You'll recognize him by his jovial, upbeat spirit, ear-splitting laugh, and the Starbucks coffee mug in his hand."