

# DIOCESE OF ORANGE



MEDIA CONTACT  
RYAN LILYENGREN  
714-282-3075  
RYNL@RCBO.ORG

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SEVEN NEW PRIESTS FOR THE DIOCESE OF ORANGE:**

*Bishop Brown acknowledges need for priests to keep up with growth*

**Orange, Calif., (June 9, 2005)** - The Most Reverend Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange, will ordain seven men as Catholic priests on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, at St. Columban Church in Garden Grove, the largest class in recent memory.

“These new priests are a blessing and a gift to our Diocese,” said Bishop Brown. “Their ministry will be vital to our Church because of the growing number of Catholics in Orange County and founding of two new parishes.”

“This class represents our county’s cultural diversity and the multicultural ministry of our Diocese,” said Bishop Brown. The 2005 Ordination Class includes four Vietnamese who will be ministering to the largest Vietnamese community outside Vietnam.

This year’s ordination class includes Rev. Michael St. Paul, St. Joseph church in Santa Ana; Edward Becker from St. Joachim parish in Costa Mesa; Stephen Doktorczyk of St. Bonaventure Church in Huntington Beach; Martin Hiep Nguyen from St. Polycarp Church, Stanton; Joseph Thuong Tran, St. Columban parish in Garden Grove; Danh Ngoc Trinh, St. Nicholas parish, Laguna Woods, and Thai Minh Trinh from Holy Spirit, Fountain Valley.

“This is a very positive and hopeful time for our Diocese,” said Bishop Brown. “We celebrate the faith and commitment of these new priests as they begin their ministry to the people of Orange County.”

The Diocese of Orange has enjoyed sustained growth since its founding in 1976. Today there are 186,147 registered household within 58 parishes. Over one million people in Orange County call themselves Catholic. Anglos, Hispanics, Filipinos and Vietnamese comprise the major ethnicities in the Diocese.

“This ordination comes at a time of Diocesan expansion both in terms of population and construction of new facilities,” commented Bishop Brown, who last week consecrated the new church at La Purisima parish in El Modena that is three times larger than the former church.

This year the Diocese will establish new parishes in Ladera Ranch and Santa Ana, and dedicate a new facilities at St. Catherine Siena Church in Laguna Beach and Santa Clara de Asis in Yorba Linda among others. Earlier this year a new church was consecrated at St. Philip Benizi parish in Fullerton.

For additional information about the ordination ceremony or the individuals to be ordained contact: Lesa Truxaw, Director of Worship (714) 282-3042

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THE MARYWOOD CENTER  
2811 E. VILLA REAL DRIVE  
P. O. BOX 14195  
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92863-1595  
PHONE: (714) 282-3000  
FAX: (714) 282-3029