

# San Diego Has a New Bishop



**Bishop Robert W. McElroy**

*Bishop McElroy is widely viewed as a champion of Pope Francis' teachings and style of ministry. He becomes the next shepherd of about 1 million Roman Catholics in San Diego and Imperial counties. The Diocese has been without a bishop since September 6 of last year, when Bishop Cirilo Flores died after a relatively short battle with cancer. He had been our Bishop for less than one year. Bishop Flores was praised for his dedication to the poor and to Catholic education. Bishop McElroy is also known for his passion for Catholic education, at the elementary, secondary and university levels and his focus on outreach to the poor.*

*Bishop McElroy is the author of "The Search for an American Public Theology" (1989) and "Morality and American Foreign Policy" (1993). He is also a frequent contributor to "America", a Jesuit magazine.*

Bishop Robert W. McElroy is a fifth generation Californian who was born in San Francisco in 1954 and grew up in San Mateo County. He received a master of divinity degree from St. Patrick's Seminary in 1979 and was ordained to the priesthood April 12, 1980, at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco by Archbishop John R. Quinn.

Bishop McElroy earned degrees in American History at Harvard and Stanford, a doctorate in Political Science at Stanford and a doctoral degree in Moral Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He has taught at the university level and is the author of two books and many articles.

As a young priest, he served as parochial vicar (associate pastor) at Saint Cecilia Parish in San Francisco and at Saint Pius Parish in Redwood City. He also served as secretary to Archbishop Quinn. In 1995 he became Vicar General for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, and was named a Monsignor by Pope John Paul II in 1996. Bishop McElroy was pastor of Saint Gregory Parish in San Mateo for 14 years prior to his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010.

He will be installed as the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego on Wednesday April 15, at Saint Therese of Carmel Parish in Carmel Valley.



*"Bishop McElroy is very much an intellectual," said Michael Barber, professor of theology, scripture and Catholic thought at John Paul the Great Catholic University in Escondido. "At the same time, he really does represent an American Francis. He's emphasizing the need to take a pastoral approach to theology. Just as we've seen Pope Francis being accessible and speaking out to the public, we should see the same with him."*