

The Bishop of the Diocese¹

Bishop Armando Xavier Ochoa was born in Oxnard, California, in 1943, the second child to Angel and Mary Ochoa. He received his education at Santa Clara Elementary and Santa Clara High School, Oxnard, California, and graduated in 1961. In 1962 he entered St. John's Seminary College and having graduated, continued his studies at St. John's Seminary School of Theology. Bishop Ochoa was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles on May 23, 1970 by Cardinal Timothy Manning. He served as Associate Pastor at St. Alphonsus Church in East Los Angeles; St. John the Baptist Church in Baldwin Park; and St. Teresa of Avila Church in Los Angeles. Bishop Ochoa was appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Los Angeles in December 1984. While an Associate Pastor at St. Teresa of Avila, he was named a Monsignor, Chaplain to His Holiness in 1982.

Prior to his Ordination to the Episcopacy in February 1987, as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Regional Bishop of the San Fernando Pastoral Region, he served as a board member and later as co-director of the Permanent Diaconate Program for the Archdiocese. He also headed the Secretariat for Ethnic Ministry Services. Bishop Ochoa also served as a board member for both Don Bosco Technical High School and St. John's Seminary.

On June 26, 1996, Bishop Ochoa was installed as the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso, Texas.

Throughout Bishop Ochoa's Episcopacy, he has held the following USCCB positions: Member of the Sub-Committee on Lay Ministry, Committee on Migration, Sub-Committee on Hispanic Affairs, Committee on Laity, Committee on Vocations, Committee on the Diaconate, Committee on the Millennium/Jubilee Yea, Sub-Committee on Lay Ecclesial Ministry, CLINIC Board of Directors and Region XIII Administrative Committee. Bishop Ochoa has also been a Consultant on the Committee on Migration and Sub-Committee on Hispanic Affairs. Other nation and international responsibilities have included a member of the Alta/Baja California Border Bishops Council, United States Delegate to the Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, and member of the Texas Mexico Border Bishops' Council.

The first duty of the bishop of the diocese, described in canon law, is to fulfill the offices of sanctifying, teaching and ruling in hierarchical communion with the head of the College, the Holy Father, and its members. The decree of the Second Vatican Council, *Christus Dominus*, states the following concerning diocesan bishops:

In exercising his office of father and pastor, the bishop should be with his people as one who serves, as a good shepherd who knows his sheep and whose sheep know him, as a true father who excels in his love and solicitude for all, to whose divinely conferred authority all readily submit. He should so unite and mold his flock into one family that all, conscious of their duties, may live and act in the communion of charity... His priests, who assume a part of his duties and concerns, and who are ceaselessly devoted to their

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work, should be the objects of his particular affection. He should regard them as sons and friends. He should always be ready to listen to them, and cultivate an atmosphere of easy familiarity with them, thus facilitating the pastoral work of the entire Diocese.

Pray for the bishop that he may live and act as described above.

In the Eucharistic prayer, the name "Armando" may be used. The bishop encourages priests to refer to the bishop as "the Bishop of the Diocese of Fresno," and never simply as "the Bishop of Fresno." He is not the bishop of a particular city but of all the People of God throughout the whole Diocese.