



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 9, 2012

Dear Pastors, Parochial Administrators, Parish Stewards, School Administrators, and Agency Directors:

After considering various economic factors and undertaking consultation over the last several weeks, I have made the decision for a +2% salary adjustment in the 2012-2013 fiscal year, with no step increases.

Each year, I publish a salary adjustment that serves as the standard guideline for lay employees and priests employed by our parishes, schools, agencies, and the central administrative offices of the diocese. In each of the last three fiscal years I have published a salary freeze with no step increases, in order to better sustain Church ministries in a very challenging economic environment.

The 2% increase this year strikes a prudent balance in the current economic environment. The adjustment recognizes that there has been no meaningful recovery from the significant economic downturn that has plagued our nation and especially our region over the last several years. California maintains the second highest unemployment rate in the U.S.; home foreclosure activity remains high locally; home values have continued to decline over the last year; commercial vacancy rates remain high; construction activity is minimal; and large State budget shortfalls have and will continue to negatively impact our economy at least through 2012-2013. This economic situation continues to place financial stress on our parish families, on our parish budgets, and increases even more the challenge for our families who make sacrifices to offer a Catholic school education for their children. The adjustment balances this reality against the 3.2% increase in the CPI index over the last year.

I remain grateful for your continued work on behalf of the Church as well as the generous and sacrificial service of the lay employees, religious and priests of our diocese.

May the Lord Jesus sustain us and all the good works with his joy and hope in this New Year.

Respectfully,

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento