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Diocese begins process of planting new church in south Salinas Valley

Canon Jesus Reyes has announced that The Rev. Filemon Diaz will work with the Diocese of El Camino Real to begin the process of planting a new Latino congregation in the Soledad - Greenfield - King City area.

Born in Jalisco, Mexico and ordained in 1997, Diaz has extensive experience working with Latino communities and congregations. He and his family (pictured below) arrived in the United States in 2004, where he began working with Latino communities in Southern California and he helped form a non-profit corporation to provide educational support and cultural guidance to immigrant newcomers.

He also served as a health promoter in the mental health department of the County of Los Angeles, providing workshops and support groups and guiding Latino families to better understand mental health and remove the stigma and fear of receiving support.

This work led him to the Lutheran Church, where in 2012 he received his first call to collaborate with a community in South Denver to reorganize a Latino congregation. In 2014 he received another call to plant a church in joint collaboration between the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa and the ELCA Western Iowa Synod.

In November 2017 he was called as interim pastor for an established Latino congregation near Omaha, Nebraska. He served in the role until accepting the invitation from El Camino Real to lead the planting of a new church in the southern region of the Salinas Valley.

“St. Philip’s the Apostol in Scotts Valley was the last church plant done in our diocese, and it is now a parish. This new church plant venture will be done in collaboration with the Rev. Carl Hansen and the St. Mark’s King City community, as well as essential missionary support provided by the Rev. Martin Juarez and San Pablo Apostol in Seaside,” said Canon Reyes.

“On behalf of God, here we are and here we go,” said Diaz. “God Himself with His Holy Spirit will help us in the name of Jesus Christ to do this work.”



Watch for updates and more details about the church plant project as it progresses.
