



July 1, 2026

Memorial of St. Junipero Serra

Dear Members of St. Charles Borromeo Parish and School,

Today marks the official first day both of my assignment as your priest and of Mr. Tait Jensen's administration as principal of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Classical School. I am grateful and excited to be here. With this letter, I want to share some of my thoughts as I assume the pastoral care of our parish and school and to signal some important happenings and changes in the coming months.

Although I have been a priest for eleven years, this is the first time for me to receive the full pastoral care of a parish. (This is the reason why my official title is "parish administrator" rather than "pastor," an issue I address in my column printed in last Sunday's bulletin and reprinted in the bulletin for this coming Sunday.) While I am sure that I will learn many things and that my thoughts will develop further, I wish to share some of the initial fruits of my prayer and reflections as I strive to make sense of the profound responsibilities before me.

First, I see myself as responsible for three distinct but overlapping groups of people: those who call St. Charles Borromeo their spiritual home, those participating in our apostolate of Catholic classical education, and those (including the non-Catholic and non-Christian) who happen to live within the geographic boundaries of the parish. Recognizing the diversity of the people I am called to serve, I am convicted of the need to be a priest for the *whole community*. Second, amidst this diversity, my fundamental tasks remain the same: proclaiming the Gospel and calling people to holiness. At the core of my mission as a priest is the *salvation of souls*. Third, I acknowledge I cannot do everything on my own; I will need to rely on the expertise, generosity, and intercession of the people of the parish if I am to be an effective pastor. I have already been astounded by the graciousness that staff and community members have shown me and by their manifest commitment to the parish and school.

As we look forward to this next chapter in the life of the parish and school with a new priest and principal, there are several items I wish to point out to you.

First, I look forward to meeting you and sharing life together! **A special invitation** I want to extend is to the reception that will take place after the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, July 12. Following

the reception, Mr. Jensen and I will have an information session for the school community. All members of the broader parish community are welcome to attend this session.

Second, expect to hear more from Mr. Jensen and me about the **revitalization of advisory councils** to assist us in leadership and governance. For the school, I have instructed Mr. Jensen to reconstitute a School Advisory Council. While I will be an *ex officio* member of the SAC, I have clarified with Mr. Jensen that this is *his* council to support him in *his* leadership of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Classical School. Meanwhile, I plan to reestablish a Parish Pastoral Council and revamp the operations of our Parish Finance Council. More details, including on opportunities to serve on these councils, are forthcoming. On a related note, I am also interested in expanding other opportunities for community members to share their gifts and talents in service of the parish, the school, and mission of evangelization. Please stay tuned.

Third, there will be a **change in the daily weekday Mass times** effective Monday, August 24. Starting on that day, I will begin to offer weekday Mass at 8:00 a.m. on Mondays through Fridays. This will replace the 12:30 p.m. daily Mass occurring Tuesday through Friday. The other Mass times and the opportunities for Confession and Eucharistic Adoration remain unchanged. Three things prompt this change in the weekday Mass time. First, I continue to serve as Director of Vocations for the diocese, which requires me to maintain greater flexibility in the middle of the day for meeting with discerners and for occasional quick trips out of town. Second, moving weekday Mass to 8:00 a.m. aligns with the strong desire within our school community to offer **daily Mass for our students**. The implementation of daily Mass within the school schedule reinforces the centrality of our Faith and sacramental life and can enhance contact between the parish and school through regular shared worship together. Finally, the addition of daily Mass on Monday comes from my desire to pray Mass everyday and to do so with other people - even on my “day off!”

Fourth, an exciting project to **renovate the parish convent** and **bring back teaching sisters** to our parish campus is underway. As you may know, our fifth grade teacher Sister Francis Marie has been responding to a call she perceives from the Lord to establish a new religious community: the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Priests. This new community will be devoted to supporting priests both through prayerful intercession *and* practical assistance in a key area of concern for priests: providing quality Catholic education and formation for the next generation. Sister Francis Marie has been clarifying the purpose of this community and attracting women to discern with her. The missing ingredient is a suitable place for her to receive the first new members of this community. Our convent can be that place. I hope that you are as excited as I am at the prospect of having religious sisters

teaching in our parish school *and* living on our parish grounds for the first time in decades. I will share details on practical ways to support this project in the near future.

I close by noting that today is the memorial of the Spanish missionary Saint Junipero Serra, famed for establishing the first Catholic missions in present-day California and walking thousands of miles in the process. St. Junipero had a saying: *Siempre adelante*, meaning “always forward.” It is a statement of fortitude and hope, persevering in the demands of Christian missionary discipleship and trusting in the providence of God. As we push forward to what the Lord has in store for us, I humbly ask for your prayers as I begin my duties in this new chapter of my priestly life and ministry. Please know of my prayers for you.

St. Junipero Serra, pray for us!

St. Charles Borromeo, pray for us!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Kyle Ratuiste". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Fr.", "Kyle", and "Ratuiste" being capitalized and prominent.

Fr. Kyle Ratuiste

Parish Administrator

St. Charles Borromeo Parish