



**Most Reverend Oscar Azarcon Solis, D.D.
Bishop-Elect, Diocese of Salt Lake City**

Personal Information:

Date of Birth: October 13, 1953
Place of Birth: San Jose City, Philippines

Parents: Anselmo dela Fuente Solis (deceased)
Antonia Ortega Azarcon (deceased)

Sisters: Celia S. Tapia, Ma. Socorro S. Pacubas & Helen Solis (deceased)

Brothers: Rev. Ronald A. Solis (Opus Dei), Wilfredo & Eugenio (deceased)

Education:

Elementary Grades: San Jose Elementary School, San Jose City (1965)
High School: Maria Assumpta Seminary, Cabanatuan City (1969)
College: Divine Word Seminary, Tagaytay City (AB Philosophy 1973)
Theology: University of Santo Tomas, Manila (STB 1978, Cum Laude);
(*Post Graduate Studies - Oriental Religions & Cultures 1979-80*)

Ordination to the Sacred Orders: April 28, 1979 in San Jose City, Philippines

Pastoral Assignments:

➤ **Archdiocese of Manila, Philippines**

1979 - 1980: Resident Priest, Holy Family Church
Chaplain, Knights of Columbus & Christian Family Movement

➤ **Diocese of Cabanatuan, Philippines**

1980 - 1981: Dean of Students and Professor, Diocesan College Formation
1980 - 1984: Chaplain and Professor, Araullo Lyceum University
1981 - 1984: Rector, Diocesan High School and College Seminary
Served also as Vocation Director, Member of the Diocesan Priests Council,
Chaplain of Knights of Columbus

Pastoral Assignments (cont.):

➤ **Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, USA**

1984 – 1988: Associate Pastor, St. Rocco Church, Union City

➤ **Diocese of Houma- Thibodaux, Louisiana**

1993 - 1993: Associate Pastor, St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Thibodaux

1993 - 1999: Pastor, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Golden Meadow

1999 - 2003: Pastor, St. Joseph Co-Cathedral & St. Luke Church, Thibodaux

Served also as Member of Diocesan Personnel Board, Diocesan Priests

Council and Dean, Founding Board Member - Crossroads Pregnancy Center

(Thibodaux, LA)

Episcopal Ordination: February 10, 2004

Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral, Los Angeles, California

Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

**First Filipino-American Bishop ordained in the USA*

➤ **Archdiocesan Assignments:**

2004 - 2009: Vicar for Ethnic Ministry

2005 - 2009: Director, Office of Justice and Peace

2009 - present: Regional Bishop of the San Pedro Pastoral Region

➤ **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)**

2006 - 2009: Chairman, Subcommittee on Asian & Pacific Affairs

2006 - present: Episcopal Moderator, Catholic Network of Volunteer Services

2009 - 2015: Member, Subcommittee on Asian & Pacific Affairs

2011 - present: Episcopal Adviser, National Association of Filipino Priests – USA

2015 - present: Chairman, Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs

Member, Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church

The Coat of Arms of Most Reverend Oscar A. Solis, D.D.



The arms of Bishop Solis are composed of three sections. In the upper left section (heraldic “dexter”) is a silver (white) field that is charged with a blue Jerusalem Cross which refers to the mission of the Church and the ministry of the Bishop to bring the good news of salvation to the four corners of the world.

On a blue field to the right (heraldic “sinister”) is a garb of rice with silver stalks and golden seeds, representing his home province which is the “rice granary” of the Philippines. Like wheat, rice can be transformed to many uses. The symbol reminds us that like rice or wheat, we are called to be transformed to whatever God can use us for the building up of His Kingdom. In Jesus’ words: “*Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it does not bear fruit.*” (Jn 12:24).

The base of the shield bears a golden sunburst on a red background. Representing the origin of the Bishop’s family name from Latin -“sol” the “sun” as center of our universe, it also refers to Jesus Christ, the Son of God whose blood saved us. At the center of the sun is an eight-pointed blue star representing the Blessed Virgin Mary in her title, “Stella Maris,” the patroness of the seafaring people of Asia and Louisiana. Mindful of his first and last parishes in his former Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, the bishop expresses his special devotion to our Blessed Mother invoking her guidance on his pastoral ministry.

For his motto, the bishop adopted the Latin phrase “*Fiat Voluntas Tua*”, from the Lord’s Prayer “your will be done” (Matthew 6:10). The phrase echoes the Virgin Mary’s “yes” at the Annunciation, her openness and obedience to God’s saving plan which we all are called to do. Like Mary, the motto expresses the bishop’s total surrender and complete trust to the will of God.

The device is completed with the external ornaments, a processional cross placed in back of the shield extending above and below the shield, and a pontifical hat, called a “gallero.” These are the heraldic insignia of a prelate of the rank of Bishop (by instruction of the Holy See - March 31, 1969).



DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY

MISSION

The Mission of the Diocese of Salt Lake City is to Believe, Celebrate and Live the Redeeming Love of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, In Utah.

History

- Established as a Vicariate-Apostolic on November 23, 1886
- St. Mary Magdalene is the Patroness of the Diocese
- Named a Diocese on January 27, 1891, under its first bishop, the pioneer priest Lawrence Scanlon
- St. Mary Magdalene Cathedral dedicated in 1909; renamed the Cathedral of the Madeleine in 1917
- Comprises the entire State of Utah; nearly 85,000 sq. miles, making it one of the largest dioceses in the country

Statistical Overview

- Utah Catholic Demographics:
 - Over 300,000 Catholics in the state
 - Approximately 60% Hispanic, 34% White and 5% Asian
 - Masses celebrated in many languages including Vietnamese, Filipino, African Dialects, Tongan, Korean, Polish
- Parishes, Missions and Stations: 69
- Number of Priests: 69
- Number of Deacons: 76
- Number of Religious Women: 27
- Number of Seminarians: 10
- High Schools: 3
- Elementary/Middle Schools: 13
- Total Students: 15,770

Previous Bishops

Archbishop John C. Wester
2008-2014

Archbishop George H. Niederauer
1994-2006

Bishop William K. Weigand
1980-1994

Bishop Joseph L. Federal
1960-1980

Bishop Duane G. Hunt
1937-1960

Bishop James E. Kearney
1932-1937

Bishop John J. Mitty
1926-1932

Bishop Joseph S. Glass
1915-1926

Bishop Lawrence Scanlan
1891-1915



A Brief History of the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City

Over 200 years ago, the first Catholic priests traveled from New Mexico through Utah looking for an overland route to the Pacific Ocean. Today, Catholics in Utah number well over 300,000 and are served by 69 parishes and missions and 16 Catholic schools. An area of nearly 85,000 square miles comprises the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

It was in 1776 that Franciscan friars Francisco Dominguez and Silvestre de Escalante crossed this territory with the help of local Native American guides. Six months later, diminishing supplies and threatening weather forced their expedition to return to New Mexico. It would be nearly 100 years before Catholic priests would formally establish their first foundation in Utah Territory.

In 1871, Fr. Patrick Walsh built the first Catholic Church in Utah dedicating it to St. Mary Magdalene. Father (later Bishop) Lawrence Scanlan arrived in 1873 to become pastor. Soon he would be given responsibility for the pastoral care of the Catholic military men, immigrant miners and railroad workers who numbered in the hundreds. Small churches, schools, an orphanage and a hospital were built, staffed by clergy and Holy Cross Sisters, to serve the growing Catholic population.

From that time to the present, this diocese has been blessed with assistance from Catholic Mission Societies such as the Catholic Church Extension Society, U.S. Bishop's Committee on Home Missions, the Black and Indian collections and the Catholic Communications Campaign. As the nineteenth century came to a close, it was clear that the Catholic community in Salt Lake City was rapidly outgrowing the small church of St. Mary Magdalene. The time had come for the Catholics to erect a landmark of faith in downtown Salt Lake City.

In 1890, Fr. Scanlan purchased a lot where the present Cathedral of the Madeleine stands today for \$35,000. The Vicariate of Utah became the Diocese of Salt Lake City a year later, and a rectory was built on the site by then Bishop Lawrence Scanlan, the first Catholic bishop of Utah. Ground was broken for the new church in 1899. Construction for the building would last nearly a decade, costing a small fortune for the estimated 3,000 Catholics in Utah at the turn of the century. In 1917, the interior was artistically enhanced and the church was renamed the Cathedral of the Madeleine.

Seventy years later, in the 1990's the inside of the Cathedral was renovated and restored over a three-year period, costing 9.7 million dollars. It stands today as a beautiful monument to the early Catholic Church in Utah, and is listed on the Utah State Register of Historic Sites as well as the National Register of Historic Places.

Today in the Diocese of Salt Lake City, there are over 200 priests, deacons, brothers and women religious serving across the state, as well as thousands of lay ministers. Varied ministries reach out to people of different ethnic backgrounds, especially Hispanic people who make up a large percentage of the growing Catholic population. Catholic Community Services (founded in 1945) along with Holy Cross Ministries, help refugees, the homeless, the poor and other marginalized members of society. The Intermountain Catholic weekly newspaper (founded in 1898) and our social media channels provide a network of communications to a vibrant community of faith.

Following in the footsteps of two brave Franciscan explorers, the Diocese of Salt Lake City has grown from its humble roots as a missionary diocese of miners, immigrants and railroad workers, to an important presence in the Utah landscape. The Catholic Community of Utah continues to grow and flourish into the new millennium.

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