



THE MOST REVEREND
EDWARD JAMES FORD, T.O.R.

6 January 2022
Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

TO ALL THE FAITHFUL IN CHRIST

It is with the deepest regret that we must announce to you that our Brother in Christ, The Most Reverend Joseph Andrew Vellone of Las Vegas, Nevada, former Metropolitan-Archbishop of the Archdiocese of California of the North American Old Roman Catholic Church, passed into the arms of the Lord, yesterday, the 5th day of January in the Year of Our Lord 2022.

THE MOST REVEREND JOSEPH ANDREW VELLONE



May 31, 1935 – January 5, 2022

Joseph Andrew Vellone was born on May 31, 1935 in San Francisco, California to Anthony L Vellone and his wife Ignazia (Nancy) L Pedone. He was raised by his mother and his step-father Stuart Roland Conlin.

Joseph entered the Salesian Fathers and attended the Don Bosco College and Seminary in New Jersey where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1959 and his Bachelor in Philosophy in 1962. He returned to his home in California and eventually entered the teaching profession in which he continued until his retirement from Salinas Union High School in Salinas, California.

In 1973 Joseph was received into the North American Old Roman Catholic Church (Utrecht Succession) by Archbishop Edgar Ramon Verostek, who ordained him to the Sacred Priesthood on January 31, 1974.

On March 22, 1980, Joseph Andrew Vellone married Patricia Ann Chambers in Monterey, California. Patricia pre-deceased Archbishop Vellone on January 27, 2012. Archbishop Vellone was a father to her two sons Lloyd and Michael, and grandfather to Chelsi, Brooke, and Cole Chambers.

As the years passed and with Archbishop Verostek getting up in years and illness slowly encroaching. Archbishop Verostek decided it was time to retire from the Office of Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of California and to place the administration of the diocese into the hands of a capable successor. His choice fell upon Father Vellone. On January 31, 1985 Archbishop Verostek consecrated Father Joseph Andrew Vellone as the new Metropolitan Archbishop of the North American Old Roman Catholic Church, Archdiocese of California. The now Archbishop Vellone combined his duties as pastor of St Michael's Old Roman Catholic Church in Salinas, California with his responsibilities as the Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese and the Metropolitan of the Church.

On September 29, 2020 Archbishop Vellone, following 18 months of prayer, discussion and deliberation consummated an Act of Reunification with the North American Old Roman Catholic See of Nova Terra bringing an end to the eighty years of separation of the Archdiocese of California from the parent body established by the late Archbishop Carmel Henry Carfora in 1917. The said Act of Reunification became effective on the First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2020.

Throughout his last remaining years Archbishop Vellone battled various health issues which led to his gradual relinquishment of some of his duties as Metropolitan Archbishop. Ultimately he entered hospice care and courageously fought to remain as active as possible, always strong in his Catholic Faith which sustained him in good times and bad. Ultimately, as his last days approached, he contracted Covid-19 which was to end his earthly struggle.

Archbishop Vellone peacefully fell asleep in the arms of the Lord he so dearly loved and served on Wednesday January 5, 2022.

“Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.”

Let us pray

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

All Bishops and Priests are directed to offer a Requiem Mass for the eternal repose of his soul.

All Clergy are directed to recite the Office of the Dead for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Faithful are requested to say a Rosary for the eternal repose of his soul.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE.