

The Very Rev. Paula Vukmanic's Biography

The Very Reverend Paula Vukmanic has been involved in ministry throughout her life. Having been raised Roman Catholic, Paula chose being a Sister of St Joseph of Carondelet as a way of life for twelve years. Her service included seven years locally as Campus Minister at Bishop Montgomery High School, Torrance. She left the CSJ's in 1987 with a Master's in Ministry from Seattle University. By 1991, she was involved in a full-time career as a professional artist. Besides producing art, Paula also taught adults and gave workshops and retreats in art and spirituality. She led prayer groups and was a spiritual director.

Paula was married for ten years. After she was divorced in 2003, she discerned it was time to follow the vocation to which she had always felt called - to be a priest. In 2005 she began the discernment process for priesthood and started seminary. In 2009 she graduated from Claremont School of Theology with a Master's in Divinity and was ordained a deacon. In January of 2010 she was ordained a priest.

After ordination, Paula served as the chaplain at The Canterbury, an Episcopal Home Community with Independent, Assisted Living and Care residents. In Spring of 2010, Paula became full time as the Associate Rector of St Francis. In 2015, Paula became "Priest-in-Charge-under-Special-Circumstances" and, after a mutual discernment process, the parish called Paula as Rector and she was installed in Spring of 2016.

Paula's living vision is that "we are in this together." Fostering lay leadership, discerning the gifts of the Spirit within the parish community, empowering a new Mission and Vision, and fostering a culture of love and acceptance have been Paula's priorities. There has been enhanced repairs and updating within our buildings, throughout our grounds and for our church organ.

Every Sunday, Paula welcomes all into our faith community, joyfully proclaiming we are one family, here to serve one another and the world, believing "God is always doing more than we could ask for or even imagine!"