



## Deacon Paul Hernandez

January 11, 1944 - February 8, 2021

Deacon Paul Hernandez, 77 years of age from Visalia, Ca., passed away peacefully on February 8th, 2021, in the presence of his family. He was born January 11, 1944 in Laredo, Tx. to Maria de Jesus Hernandez. In 1957, age 13, Deacon Paul attended Father Flanagan's Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska until he graduated high school in 1963. He made memories with his three brothers who also resided at Boys Town with him. In addition to being an athlete, he toured the country singing with the Boys Town Choir.

Deacon Paul briefly returned to Laredo, Tx while waiting to begin his four years of service in the United States Navy. In this time, Deacon Paul fell in love with San Juanita "Nita" Guerrero. While in the Navy, Deacon Paul corresponded with Nita often. He became the Signal Man for the U.S.S. Embattle Search and Destroy, guiding the Naval fighter pilots during the Vietnam War.

After his military service, Deacon Paul moved to Cutler, Ca and married Nita. Together they raised two children, Paul Hernandez Jr. and Cynthia (Hernandez) Gutierrez. In 1977, he moved his family to their home in Visalia, Ca. He was a loving husband and father always working diligently to provide for his family. He was active in his children's education, sporting events, and musical endeavours. He worked for Westinghouse designing electrical switchboards for 24 years before starting his own lawn service. During this

time, he began serving at Holy Family Catholic Church as the Choir Director and leader of various ministries.

Deacon Paul joined the Diaconate formation classes becoming the first group of Deacons to be ordained on January 11, 2003 in the Diocese of Fresno. He dedicated his life to the community celebrating masses, weddings, baptisms, and funerals. He was even honored to baptize many of his grandchildren. Deacon Paul took great pleasure in counseling engaged couples, couples who were in need, and individuals battling with their personal trials. He was often asked to bless homes and offer prayer. He learned and began making rosaries for Our Ladies Rosary Makers, which provided rosaries to confirmation students, hospitals, and church ministry groups. Once retiring from the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Visalia one year ago, he dedicated his days to making up to 20 rosaries per day.

Deacon Paul will be lovingly remembered by San Juanita Hernandez, his wife of 53 years. He is survived by his two children, Paul Hernandez Jr. and Cynthia Veronica Gutierrez. His daughter-in-law, Mariana Matei Hernandez and son-in-law, Jose Luis Gutierrez. Deacon Paul will be remembered by his seven grandchildren Audree Pena, Paul Hernandez III, Marissa Hernandez, Emma Hernandez, Gabriela Gutierrez, Nicolas Gutierrez, and Carlo Gutierrez. He will also be remembered by his 9 great grandchildren. He is survived by his brothers Santiago Hernandez, Guadalupe Hernandez, Juan Hernandez and his sister Gloria Perez.

The family would like to thank the 3W nursing team and physicians at Kaweah Delta District Hospital for the exceptional care and compassion in Deacon Paul's final days. The Department of Veteran's Affairs physicians were an integral part of his care, especially Dr. Sharmila Fernandez. We thank everyone for all the love, support, and prayers.

Services will be held Friday, February 19th at St. Mary's Church in Visalia, Ca. Viewing will be held at 8:30am, rosary service at 10am, and funeral mass at 10:30am followed by a graveside ceremony at Smith Mountain Cemetery. Condolences may be offered by logging onto [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com) <<http://www.salseranddillard.com/>>.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

FEB 19. 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
608 N. Church Street  
Visalia, CA 93291

## Rosary

FEB 19. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
608 N. Church Street  
Visalia, CA 93291

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 19. 10:30 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
608 N. Church Street  
Visalia, CA 93291

## Graveside

FEB 19. 12:00 PM (PT)

Smith Mountain Cemetery  
42088 Rd. 100  
Dinuba, CA 93618

# Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Deacon Paul Hernandez*



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**Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - May 04, 2021 at 05:33 PM

HV

“ *It does grieve my heart to know that such a kind man is no longer with us. Easy-going with a beautiful smile on his face that typically made no fuss. The Hernandez family was so kind to me. I was alone in Tulare, your daughter Cynthia and I became very close friends. She is my sister. I am ever grateful for the love, support, warmth that you all chose to show this random stranger. I can only attribute that kind of warmth to the “priest” of the household, Deacon Paul Hernandez. From his and Nita’s example their beautiful children kindly embraced others. I know he is no longer suffering and in that knowledge there is peace. He is sorely missed. I love you all.*

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**Heather Vaz-Antrobus** - February 19, 2021 at 11:03 AM

CG

*My father cherished you for the love and support you gave back. We are two families who will be bonded eternally. We love you sweet Heather.*

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**Cynthia Gutierrez** - February 20, 2021 at 03:03 AM

CG

“ *Cora Gaspar sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Paul Hernandez*



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**Cora Gaspar** - February 18, 2021 at 10:10 PM

WC

“ *Deacon Paul and Anita Hernandez welcomed Charles and I to music ministry at Holy Family where his beautiful spirit blessed and embraced anyone who wanted to praise the Lord through song. It was an honor to accompany his choir and to witness his love of the liturgy and worship. Deacon Paul's gentle voice remains in my heart as this memory is extended to Nita and the entire family. Requiescat in pace. Wendy Culbreth*



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**wendy Culbreth** - February 18, 2021 at 10:01 PM

CG

*Thank you Wendy for your love and support. I will always cherish the memories of my father singing in the choir. I'm so thankful to have sang along side him for some of my teenage years. Our family is thankful for your friendship.*

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**Cynthia Gutierrez** - February 20, 2021 at 03:06 AM

NZ

“ *We are so sorry to hear of Deacon Paul's Passing. I worked with his wife Nita and their son Paul at NDS for several years. Deacon Paul also baptized my son. I remember him as a very kind man. Our prayers are with his entire family during this difficult time. Nancy and Manuel Zavala.*

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**Nancy Zavala** - February 17, 2021 at 08:39 PM

CG

*Thank you so much for such kind words. My family is grateful for the friendships made with the great NDS team.*

**Cynthia Gutierrez** - February 20, 2021 at 03:07 AM

SB

“ *Sherry S Baxter lit a candle in memory of Deacon Paul Hernandez*



**Sherry S Baxter** - February 17, 2021 at 12:28 PM

CT

“ *Thank you and your family for the sacrifices you made to save and nurture us all. ❤️🙏*

**Cheryl Thomas** - February 16, 2021 at 06:30 PM

MO

“ *You will be missed Deacon Paul. Thoughts and prayers to all your family and particularly to Nita. Thank you for serving our parish for so many years. We will miss your smile and kindness.*

**Mary Ontiveros** - February 16, 2021 at 04:48 PM

CG

*My deepest condolence to Deacon Paul Hernandez family. Thank you for all your services and support to our Parish. Our last conversation with your wife and Fr. Vic Hernando was planning to go for vacation to Philippines when we both retire 😭💔. Eternal rest grant unto the soul of Deacon Paul oh Lord and let Perpetual light shine upon him .May he rest in peace Amen 🙏🙏🙏*

**Cora Gaspar** - February 18, 2021 at 10:07 PM

MJ

“ We will miss you Deacon Paul. You have so much support for our Filipino community. You were always there during our Simbang Gabi with so much love and Joy to share! May God's perpetual light shine upon you and may you rest in eternal peace 🙏  
Nita and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you 🙏❤️ May your faith and the love of family and friends gives you strength during this grieving times.

*James and Mary Jane Wilfong*

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**Mary Jane** - February 16, 2021 at 12:46 PM

CG

*Thank you so much James and Mary Jane. My parents always spoke so highly of the wonderful Simbang Gabi celebration dinner. My brother and I will make every effort to ensure our mother continues to attend. Her love for the church community is beyond words. Your kind words bring us much comfort.*

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**Cynthia Gutierrez** - February 20, 2021 at 03:11 AM

CF

“ I'm sorry to hear about Paul's passing. He was a very sweet and gentle man who was always there for you when you needed him at Holy Family Church. His wife Nita and I both worked at Moore Business Forms. Paul was a very compassionate person. He will be missed but not forgotten because he touched so many people. May he Rest In Peace.

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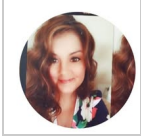
**Carolyn Dotty Franco** - February 16, 2021 at 11:29 AM

CG

*Thank you Carolyn for your kind words. The Moore's family will always be fondly remembered.*

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**Cynthia Gutierrez** - February 20, 2021 at 03:13 AM



“ *Deacon Paul you were always so great to my kids when we would see you at church gatherings even when they would mistake you for the Bishop. You will be missed by the Hanna family.* ”



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**Keira Hanna** - February 16, 2021 at 12:46 AM

CG

*My father would call us and tell us the stories of what the children would say. He loved connecting with the little ones after church. He had his purpose and fulfilled his goal of loving his community, especially the children.*

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**Cynthia Gutierrez** - February 20, 2021 at 03:15 AM