

New Vision Article
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Jordan Ministry Team
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New Beginnings

In July, 2012, I arrived in Tucson to begin a new assignment with the Jordan Ministry Team. After eight years of parish ministry followed by six years of Salvatorian administration and formation ministry, I found myself once again facing considerable change—a reality familiar to all of us to some degree. As the saying goes, “the only constant in life is change.”

For me, environment, community, and ministry were all very new. The Sonoran Desert has a climate, vegetation, and wildlife unlike anywhere else I have lived. As forbidding and harsh as it can be, however, I have come to appreciate a profound beauty, simplicity, and tenacity of life in this place. Similarly, my experiences with the diverse people and cultures in southern Arizona have been very enriching. The kindness, hospitality, and deep faith of so many wonderful people throughout the diocese have been a blessing in my life. As for the ministry, I’m loving it! The Jordan Ministry Team is very different in many respects from my previous ministries, and yet my entire Salvatorian life has been dedicated to empowering people to grow in and live out their faith. In the process, I am continually challenged to expand and deepen my own faith, as well.

The thing about all these transitions, however, is not the changes happening around me, but the changes happening within me. . . within us. I am a better person and minister today, because this place, these people, and this ministry have helped me mature in life and faith over the past couple of years. How has life changed you? Even the difficult experiences of life can lead us to greater knowledge and faith.

July, 2012, was a new beginning. So is tomorrow. Let’s make the best of it.