

**Our Voice in the Diocese  
Sacramento  
OurVoiceintheDiocese.com**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

September 21, 2018

Sacramento Catholics sent Bishop Jaime Soto a letter today with nearly 1000 signatures requesting the return of Father Jeremy Leatherby to active ministry.

The online petition was posted on 9/7/18 at: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/return-father-leatherby-to-active-ministry>.

One comment from Ryan George Seeley summarizes:

- 1. Our pastor has been indefinitely removed from us without adequate explanation. How can the Bishop justify a two and one half year suspension based on an allegation?*
  - 2. The initial misrepresentation, made in writing on behalf of the diocese, that Father Leatherby was absent due to illness, continues to cause the faithful to question diocesan credibility. The Bishop should own up to the false statement.*
  - 3. The diocesan response has been disproportionate to the allegations especially when no criminal or uncivil proceedings were instituted or referred to the authorities.*
  - 4. Father's unexplained suspension is not helping your lay faithful or clerics. It is causing scandal and hardened hearts toward the Bishop's episcopate.*
- Either substantiate your decision to your flock immediately with credible evidence or immediately return Father Leatherby to active ministry.*

A PDF format export of the petition, signers and signer comments has been posted to the Our Voices in the Diocese website.

[http://OurVoiceintheDiocese.com/ovd/?page\\_id=15](http://OurVoiceintheDiocese.com/ovd/?page_id=15)

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