

NEWS > LOCAL NEWS

2 men, 1 huge job: Keeping 11,000 windows crystal clear at Christ Cathedral

The building, which has been under renovation for 2 years, is having an invitation-only dedication ceremony July 17.



Window washer Sergio Ortega works to clean some of the 11,000 windows on Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, CA, on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. A two-man crew will be working for about two weeks to complete the annual cleaning. (Photo by Jeff Gritchen, Orange County

By **JEFF GRITCHEN** | jgritchen@scng.com | Orange County Register

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Sergio Ortega has a big job ahead of him — he's part of a two-man crew tasked with washing more than 11,000 windows at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove.

The windows get an annual cleaning, but this year may be a little more special. The building, which has been under renovation for two years, is slated for an invitation-only dedication ceremony July 17.

The window washers will spend about eight hours a day for two weeks in a lift cleaning windows as high as 128 feet.

Christ Cathedral, formerly the Crystal Cathedral, is the headquarters for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange.



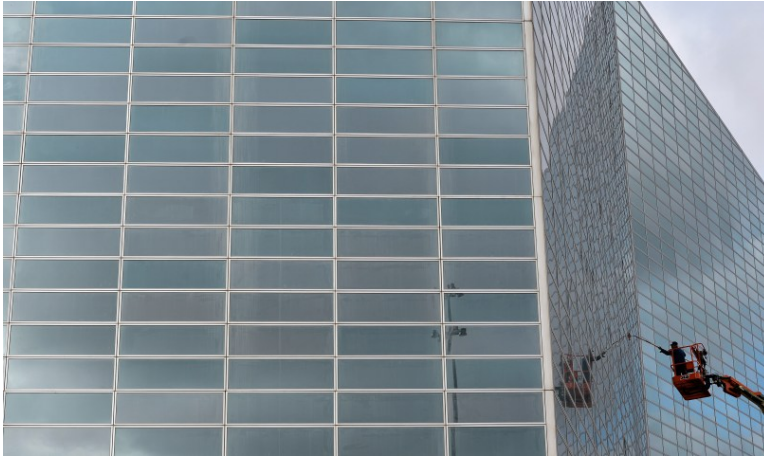
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started his career working for the American Red Cross as a disaster relief photographer 1989. In 1994 he started working for the company that would eventually become the Southern California News Group -- first at The Orange County Register, then the Long Beach Press-Telegram, then back to Orange County. Gritchen has covered everything from the large Cambodian community in Long Beach to a few NBA Championships and a World Series. In 2005 he covered the destruction of the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. In 2008 he traveled to Southeast Asia to document a rural Cambodian girl as she traveled to the U.S. for life-altering heart surgery. In 2016 he traveled to China to document the opening of Disney's newest theme park in Shanghai. He has won numerous state and national awards, including an international NPPA Best of Photojournalism award. Gritchen served as the Director of Region 10 of the National Press Photographer Association from 1999 to 2005. He attended California State University, Fullerton, where he graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts in Photo Communication. He likes to hike, bike and spend time with his family.



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