



DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Father Erik Pohlmeier of Little Rock Ordained the 11th Bishop of St. Augustine

Jacksonville, Fla. – Two short months ago on May 24, Pope Francis announced the appointment of Father Erik Pohlmeier as the next bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine. For the past 24 years, Bishop-elect Pohlmeier has served as a pastor in the Diocese of Little Rock, which encompasses the entire state of Arkansas.

Bishop-elect Pohlmeier will become the diocese's 11th bishop when he is consecrated and installed on Friday, July 22 at a 2 p.m. ordination Mass, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jacksonville. The ceremony is by invitation only, but it will be livestreamed to the public on the diocesan social media channels: [Facebook.com/DOSACatholics](https://www.facebook.com/DOSACatholics) and [YouTube.com/DOSACatholics](https://www.youtube.com/DOSACatholics). LiveU will also provide a feed for media outlets. The coordinates will be shared this Thursday, July 21.

Raised in Paris, Ark., Father Pohlmeier was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Little Rock on July 25, 1998. His last assignment was pastor of the largest parish in Little Rock, Christ the King, and director of the Faith Formation and Deacon Formation offices. He has been the theological consultant for the *Arkansas Catholic* newspaper for 19 years and director of continuing education of clergy since 2019.

Father Pohlmeier succeeds Bishop Felipe J. Estévez, who has served the St. Augustine Diocese for the past 11 years and is retiring at the age of 76. Bishop Estévez submitted his letter of resignation in February 2021, his 75th birthday, the mandatory age for bishops to retire. He has served the diocese for 11 wonderful years and the good news is he will continue living and ministering in the diocese as needed.

One of seven Catholic dioceses in Florida, the Mother Diocese of Florida has a registered Catholic population of more than 153,000 in 17 counties in northeast and north central Florida. This compares to the approximately 154,000 Catholics in Arkansas' 75 counties.

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Reflecting on his appointment to the Diocese of St. Augustine, Father Pohlmeier said, “I am grateful for every way I have been called to serve the Church and am humbled by this opportunity to serve in the place where Mass was first celebrated in the United States. May God be praised for any good work I am able to do.”

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Bishop Pohlmeier’s Mass schedule for July 21-August 1

After his ordination, Bishop Pohlmeier will begin immediately meeting his flock across the diocese. He will be celebrating Masses in the five deaneries of the diocese. The following is a schedule of Masses open to the community of the diocese:

Thursday, July 21 – Vespers at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Jacksonville

Saturday, July 23 – Gainesville Deanery Mass at Queen of Peace, 10900 SW 24th Ave., Gainesville, at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, July 25 – North Jacksonville Deanery Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 5752 Blanding Blvd, Jacksonville, at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 26 – St. Johns River Deanery, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 7190 U.S. Highway 17 S., Fleming Island, at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 27 – St. Augustine Deanery, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 4600 Belle Terre Parkway, Palm Coast at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 31 – A pastoral visit to the Basilica of Immaculate Conception, 121 E. Duval Street, Jacksonville, at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, August 1 – South Jacksonville Deanery Mass, Assumption Catholic Church, 2403 Atlantic Blvd., at 7:00 p.m.