



## Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Director of Security Named

Former Lewisville Police Detective Michael Short has been named Director of Security for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth within the Department of Property Management and Construction. The director of security is responsible for ensuring the safety and security of the faithful in the Diocese's 91 parishes and 19 schools.

Diocesan Director of Real Estate and Construction Stephen Becht said Short will ensure that Bishop Michael Olson's 2018 directive to strengthen security and safety at the Diocese's parishes and schools continues to move forward in the wake of recent attacks against religious communities.

Short will be devoted full time to the work he began as security consultant through his company, Guardian Response.

"In my new full-time position with the Diocese of Fort Worth," Short said, "I will continue implementing the security program that was started by Guardian Response, but will now be more available to connect with the various parishes and schools in order to serve their community's specific security needs."

During his 15-year career with the Lewisville Police Department, Short served in various roles within the department. He served as a patrol officer for 10 years where he spent six years training new officers as a field training officer. Short was also a member of the SWAT team for 10 years where he served as a team leader and explosive breacher. Short had also been assigned as a detective to the Burglary and Property Crimes Unit and most recently served as a detective in the Crimes Against Children Unit.

Short also served the police department as an instructor for firearms, hostage rescue, active shooter response, and breaching. He graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice and holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M University-Commerce.

A lifelong Catholic, Short and his wife Chasity have five children, one of whom, Dominic, was featured in a short film called "[Dominic's Vocation](#)" by the Respect Life Office in 2013. The Short family are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller.

Becht said that the Diocese, through the help of Guardian Response, has been establishing a discreet security program at each parish and school that employs a variety of measures to ensure the safety and security of the faithful and its students. One aspect of the program is to select, train and deploy parishioners to respond in an



**Michael Short**  
*Director of Security*

armed capacity during emergencies. Becht said many parishioners likely will not notice who belongs to the armed team, but it will be a collaborative effort to detect problems early, summon first responders, and respond quickly when necessary.

Short's full-time presence will allow the Diocese's Guardian Ministry to be established in each parish at a more rapid pace. Guardian Response will continue to work with the Diocese in providing firearms training to parishioners who are members of the armed Guardian Ministry teams.

"The Fort Worth Diocese, by establishing a Guardian Ministry at the diocesan level, is at the forefront of current church security standards of practice. The initiative enables all of the parishes and schools to speak a common language, support one another, and have a unified incident command structure" Short said.