



Bishop Forms New Parish

January 2, 2015

Bishop Michael F. Olson has erected a new parish in the Prosper, Frisco and Little Elm area of Denton County.

Bishop Olson made the announcement on Sunday, December 28, during a Mass for the Prosper/Frisco/Little Elm community.

The Bishop announced that Rev. Richard Kirkham will be the first pastor of the new parish, effective February 2, 2015. Father Kirkham currently is pastor of St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Burkburnett.

A meeting to discuss the name of the new parish will be held on January 15.

The new parish is located in the rapidly growing eastern Denton County area and it is the first parish formed by the Diocese since St. John Paul II Parish in Denton was established in 2012.

In a Twitter message, Bishop Olson said, "I am in Frisco, Denton County today for Mass with the community that will form our newest parish in Prosper, Frisco, and Little Elm."

The community is currently meeting for Mass at Purefoy Elementary School, located at 11880 Teel Parkway in Frisco. A permanent church will be constructed on property that the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth has purchased on Highway 380.

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth is one of the fastest growing Catholic dioceses in the United States. An estimated 710,000 Catholics reside in the 28 counties of North Texas that make up the Diocese. In the next decade, the Catholic population is projected to grow to 1 million, with most of the growth occurring in the urban areas of Greater Fort Worth, Greater Denton and Greater Wichita Falls.