



## Holy See Names Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann as Ecclesiastical Delegate for Pastoral Provision

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Bishop Kevin W. Vann has been appointed the Ecclesiastical Delegate for the Pastoral Provision in the United States by Holy See, Washington, D.C. Cardinal Donald Wuerl announced Tuesday during the Fall meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic of Bishops in Baltimore.

Bishop Vann is succeeding Newark Archbishop John J. Myers who has been the delegate since 2003. Bishop Vann assumes the office of delegate immediately.

As the Ecclesiastical Delegate for the Pastoral Provision, Bishop Vann will be the Holy See's delegate assisting former Anglican ministers who have been received into the Catholic Church and who wish to be ordained as Catholic priests. The Pastoral Provision has been in effect in the United States since 1980. This appointment is made by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Among the duties of the Ecclesiastical Delegate is to ensure the former Anglican ministers in formation receive thorough theological, spiritual and pastoral preparation for ordained ministry in the Catholic Church. Once formation is completed, the former Anglican minister becomes eligible to petition for Sacred Orders, which leads to the diaconate and priesthood.

The Pastoral Provision is under the jurisdiction of the Holy See's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. As the Congregation's delegate, Bishop Vann is responsible for the on-going work and application of the Pastoral Provision in United States.

Along with announcement of Bishop Vann's appointment, Cardinal Wuerl also announced that the Personal Ordinariate for Anglicans in the United States for entering into full communion with the Catholic Church will be erected on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1, 2012.

Cardinal Wuerl was named as Vatican's Congregation of Doctrine of the Faith delegate and the head of an ad hoc committee of U.S. bishops to lead efforts in the United States to incorporate Anglican groups into the Catholic Church in September 2010. Bishop Vann and Worcester, Massachusetts Bishop Robert McManus are members of the ad hoc committee.

The ad hoc committee has assisted the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in assessing the level of interest for establishment of a Personal Ordinariate for Anglican groups in the United States.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops describes the Anglican Ordinariate as follows: A "geographic regions similar to dioceses but typically national in scope. Parishes in these ordinariates are to be Catholic yet retain elements of

the Anglican heritage and liturgical practices. They are to be led by an ‘Ordinary,’ who will have a role similar to a bishop, but who may be either a bishop or a priest.”

While Bishop Vann’s work as Ecclesiastical Delegate for Pastoral Provision is distinct from the Personal Ordinariate, Cardinal William Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, communicated to Bishop Vann that it will be important to ensure that effective lines of communications and cooperation exist between the Pastoral Provision Office and the Ordinariate.

Bishop Vann said he is humbled to succeed Archbishop Myers.

“I have known of the important work and blessing of the Pastoral Provision for many years, especially in the Diocese of Fort Worth,” Bishop Vann said. “I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this important capacity for the life of the Church in the United States.”

The Ecclesiastical Delegate for the Pastoral Provision administers the process by which married, former Anglican ministers can become Catholic priests, sponsored by a diocesan bishop. The process includes the gathering of information by the candidate and his sponsoring bishop concerning his suitability for ordination. This information is then submitted to the Holy See. In addition, academic assessment and certification of each candidate is conducted by a theological faculty designated by the Ecclesiastical Delegate.

The Pastoral Provision was created by the Holy See in 1980 in response to requests from Episcopal priests and laity who were seeking full Communion with the Catholic Church. Cardinal Bernard Law served as the first delegate. He was appointed as the Ecclesiastical Delegate in 1981. Archbishop Myers was the second delegate in 2003. Bishop Vann is the third delegate.

Since implementation of the Pastoral Provision, approximately 100 men have been ordained as Catholic priests, seven personal parishes or communities have been established and a Book of Divine Worship has been authorized.

For more information about the Pastoral Provision, go to: <http://www.pastoralprovision.org>.

Twenty-four Fort Worth area Anglicans were received into full communion with the Catholic Church during a Mass of Reception on September 25, 2011 at Fort Worth’s St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton.

Bishop Kevin W. Vann presided at the Mass of Reception during which the former Episcopalians were received into the Catholic Church. The new Catholics have come from four Anglican parishes in the Greater Fort Worth region. The Anglicans are some of the first to enter the Catholic Church after the Universal Church responded to Anglicans who sought union with Catholics.

Bishop Vann, who has been the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth since July 13, 2005, also is the USCCB Episcopal Liaison to the Catholic Health Association and a member of the USCCB Committee on Migration and the Committee on Canonical Affairs. At the state level, Bishop Vann is a leader at the Texas Conference of Bishops and provides leadership for various initiatives which includes serving as the Texas Bishops’ Liaison to the Texas Mission Council and to the Catholic Hospitals of Texas Association and, with Lubbock Bishop Placido Rodriguez, on the Tri-Conference Committee of Bishops, Men and Women Religious of the State.

Bishop Vann is a native of Springfield, Illinois and was a priest of the Diocese of Springfield. He was ordained on May 30, 1981 and Bishop of Fort Worth since July 13, 2005. Bishop Vann received his doctorate in Canon Law from the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome (The Angelicum) in 1985.