



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF DALLAS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Christmas Comes Early for Diocese of Dallas

Beloved Dallas Priest to be Ordained Bishop for Catholic Diocese

(Dallas) The announcement today of a new auxiliary bishop comes just in time to top off the Diocese of Dallas' 125th anniversary which concludes this month. Pope Francis announced in Rome Wednesday morning that Dallas priest Monsignor John Gregory Kelly has been named a bishop and will serve as an auxiliary or assistant bishop for the Dallas diocese. At a news conference celebrating the announcement, Bishop Kevin J. Farrell welcomed the 59-year old Kelly as his new brother bishop. "I consider the fact that our Holy Father has appointed such an outstanding priest as Greg Kelly to serve as a bishop in our diocese to be an early Christmas gift from Pope Francis. Bishop Kelly is extremely well-respected by priests and parishioners alike. He has done an outstanding job as pastor and chaplain, and has been very helpful to me in his role as Vicar for Clergy."

Bishop-elect Kelly expressed his gratitude and asks the community for prayers "I am truly overwhelmed and shocked when I think about it. I am confident that God's grace to do this job comes with this call but ask that you please pray for me. I am grateful to the Holy Father, whom I greatly admire, for this appointment and I look forward to serving the people of the Diocese of Dallas as a bishop and working with Bishop Farrell and Bishop Doug Deshotel in this new capacity."

Bishop-elect Kelly's title of Bishop becomes official with the Pope's announcement today. He has been a priest in the Dallas diocese for nearly 34 years. Born in Le Mars, Iowa to John and Marilean Kelly, the new bishop, one of five children, grew up in Colorado and came to North Texas in 1976 as a student at the University of Dallas and seminarian at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving. He will now join Bishop Farrell and Auxiliary Bishop Douglas Deshotel (pronounced Des-hotel) in ministering to an ever-growing flock of 1.3 million Catholics in the Diocese of Dallas.

The Most Reverend Gregory Kelly will be ordained as bishop on **Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, 2215 Ross Avenue in downtown Dallas** by Bishop Farrell. Bishops from throughout Texas and the Southwest along with hundreds of priests, deacons, nuns, religious brothers and consecrated men and women from the Diocese of Dallas will be invited to join the new bishop's family, friends and former parishioners at the joyful event.

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