



Diocese of Austin
6225 Highway 290 East • Austin, TX 78723
www.austindiocese.org • (512) 949-2400

For Immediate Release – May 13, 2016
Contact: Christian R. González
Communications Director
(512) 949-2456
christian-gonzalez@austindiocese.org

Konderla appointed Bishop of Tulsa

AUSTIN – We announce with great joy that Pope Francis has appointed Father David Konderla, pastor of St. Mary Catholic Center in College Station, as the fourth Bishop of Tulsa, Okla. He succeeds retiring Bishop Edward Slattery, who will be 76 in August and who was appointed Bishop of Tulsa in 1994.

Bishop-elect Konderla will be ordained and installed June 29 at 2 p.m. in Tulsa.

Bishop-elect Konderla will hold a press conference at noon today in Tulsa, and a second press conference at the Diocese of Austin Pastoral Center on May 17 at 10 a.m.

Upon hearing the appointment, Bishop Joe S. Vásquez expressed his gratitude to Pope Francis for naming Father Konderla the new Bishop of Tulsa.

“I am filled with joy that our Holy Father has appointed Father David Konderla, a native priest of the Austin Diocese, as the new Bishop of Tulsa. I invite the Diocese of Austin to join me in prayer as Father Konderla transitions from our diocese to shepherd the people of the Diocese of Tulsa,” Bishop Vásquez said.

Background information

Father David Konderla is a native son of the Diocese of Austin. He was born June 3, 1960, and grew up in Bryan. He is the second of 12 children of David and Ann Konderla. His father still lives in Bryan; his mother died in 2012. Father Konderla has 25 nieces and nephews, one of whom will be born this summer, and he has one great niece.

He attended St. Joseph Catholic School and Bryan High School and graduated in 1978. After high school, Father Konderla worked as a machinist until entering seminary in 1985. He earned an undergraduate degree in history from the University of Dallas in 1989, while attending Holy Trinity Seminary and he earned a Master of Divinity degree from the University of St. Thomas in 1995, while attending St. Mary's Seminary. Father Konderla was ordained a priest on June 3, 1995, by Bishop John E. McCarthy.

Father Konderla was first assigned as associate pastor to St. Louis King of France Parish in Austin, then as associate pastor to St. Luke Parish in Temple, then as associate pastor to St. Mary Catholic Center in College Station from 1997 to 2001. He was appointed as the first full-time vocation director for the Diocese of Austin in 2001, a position he held until 2005, when he was appointed pastor of St. Mary Catholic Center in College Station. He has served almost 15 years of the 21 years he has been ordained with his beloved Aggies.

Over the years Father Konderla has served on the College of Consultors, the Presbyteral Council, the Priests' Personnel Board, the Pension Plan and Trust Board, as the director of the Project Rachel retreats and as a chaplain for the Courage Apostolate at Texas A&M University.

The Austin Diocese (www.austindiocese.org) covers 25 counties in Central Texas and includes approximately 550,000 Catholics in 126 parishes, missions and student centers. The Tulsa Diocese (www.dioceseoftulsa.org) covers 31 counties in eastern Oklahoma and has 78 parishes and missions.