



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of*
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pontifical Mission Societies USA Appoints Bishop John O. Barres to Board of Directors, Elects Him Chairman

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. – June 11, 2026 – The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States has announced the appointment of the Most Reverend John O. Barres, S.T.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Rockville Centre, to its Board of Directors and his election as Chairman of the Board at its June 10, 2026, Board meeting.

Bishop Barres brings to this leadership role a deep commitment to the Church’s missionary identity and to the universal call to holiness. His episcopal motto, “Holiness and Mission,” is taken from Pope St. John Paul II’s encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, which emphasizes the universal call to holiness and mission in the Catholic Church.

The motto also expresses Bishop Barres’ commitment to Pope Leo XIV’s emphasis on a contemplative global Catholic missiology and evangelization, as well as the call for a “missionary conversion” of Catholic parishes and of every dimension of Catholic life and witness to the world.

Bishop Barres’ connection to the missionary work of the Church is deeply rooted in his family history. His parents, Oliver and Marjorie Barres, were Protestant ministers who entered the Catholic Church. His father later recounted their conversion in *One Shepherd, One Flock*, first published by Sheed and Ward in 1955 and republished by Catholic Answers in 2000.

Oliver Barres served as a writer for the mission magazine of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in New York City, where he worked under Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. A collection of his missionary writings was published by Alba House in 1963 under the title *World Mission Windows*.

Bishop Barres himself was baptized by Archbishop Sheen on October 2, 1960, at St. Augustine Church in Larchmont, New York. His appointment to the Board of The Pontifical Mission Societies and his election as Chairman therefore represent both a continuation of a significant family legacy and a renewed personal commitment to the missionary work of the universal Church.

“I am deeply honored to serve The Pontifical Mission Societies in this new capacity,” Bishop Barres said. “The call to holiness is inseparable from the call to mission. As we prepare for the September 24th Beatification of Archbishop Sheen, I look forward to supporting the Church’s missionaries throughout the world and helping Catholics embrace more fully their baptismal responsibility to proclaim the Gospel.”

The Pontifical Mission Societies support the Church’s missionary activity throughout the world through prayer, education, advocacy, and financial assistance. Under Bishop Barres’ leadership as Chairman, the Board, including newly appointed members the Most Reverend Ronald Hicks, Archbishop of New York, and Rachel Sheridan, partner at the international law firm Kirkland & Ellis, will continue working to strengthen missionary awareness and participation among Catholics in the United States.

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