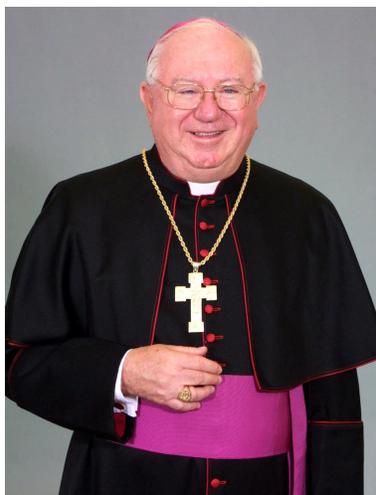




Most Reverend John O. Barres

***Statement on the Death of the  
Most Reverend William F. Murphy,  
Bishop Emeritus of Rockville Centre***

Thursday, March 26, 2026



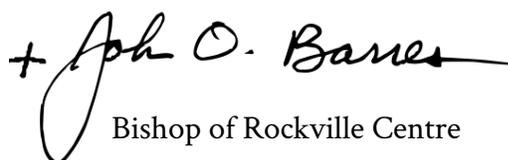
Bishop William Murphy came to Long Island in 2001 as the fourth Bishop of Rockville Centre. During more than fifteen years of episcopal ministry, he led the diocese with an evangelizing and reforming spirit, offering a joyful witness of prayer, preaching, and pastoral leadership.

Formed for the priesthood in Rome, Bishop Murphy had a deep love for the Eternal City and the universal Church. During the pontificates of Pope Saint Paul VI and Pope Saint John Paul II, he served the Holy See as an official of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and later was a driving force behind the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, which remains an important and enduring reference.

Bishop Murphy was widely respected for his expertise in Vatican diplomacy and international relations and was deeply committed to ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. With a gift for friendship, he generously mentored many priests and bishops and championed the apostolate of the laity and their vital role in the public square.

His faithful service leaves a lasting legacy on Long Island and throughout the universal Church.

As we pray for the repose of Bishop Murphy's soul, we give thanks for his devoted episcopal ministry and enduring witness of faith. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

