



## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

50 North Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

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### **Biography: Bishop-Designate Robert J. Brennan**

Bishop Robert J. Brennan was born on June 7, 1962, to Robert and Patricia Brennan in the Bronx, New York. The oldest of five children, Bishop Brennan has 2 brothers and 2 sisters, 14 nieces and nephews and three great-nephews and niece. He was raised in Lindenhurst, New York where his parents still reside. Bishop Brennan attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School in Lindenhurst and St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School, West Islip, New York. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and computer science from St. John's University in Queens, New York.

Bishop Brennan studied for the priesthood at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, New York and was ordained on May 27, 1989 by Bishop John McGann. He was first assigned to the Church of St. Patrick in Smithtown, New York. In 1994, he was appointed Secretary to the Bishop. Bishop Brennan worked in this capacity for three bishops: the late Bishop John McGann, the late Bishop James McHugh and Bishop William Murphy. He resided at St. Agnes Cathedral and served at the parish during those years.

In 2002, he was named Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. He has continued in that role since and is currently Vicar General for Bishop John Barres. In June 2010, Bishop Murphy appointed him pastor of the Church of Saint Mary of the Isle, Long Beach.

On July 25, 2012, he was ordained as Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Leaving his position as pastor in Long Beach at that time, he resides in the parish of Our Lady of Peace in Lynbrook, New York.

Bishop Brennan's strength lies in parish pastoral activity. Even while in Diocesan work, he has been afforded the opportunity to engage in many elements of parish life, in the parishes where he resides as well as in a variety of parish settings. This work has included Catechetical Ministry, Catholic Schools, Pastoral Care for the Sick and Youth Ministry. He credits his experience as Secretary to the Bishop as a great opportunity to know the priests of the Diocese who continually inspire him.

While at the Cathedral Parish of St. Agnes, Bishop Brennan came to know the Hispanic community in the parish and began to study Spanish. He says this opened new doors in parish ministry and has given him the chance to come to know and love the Hispanic community on Long Island. A particular focus of his episcopal ministry has been in service to this community of some 400,000 Catholics. He speaks of the vibrancy of their faith as a particular source of inspiration.



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Bishop Brennan has served on the Board of Directors for Catholic Health Services as well as various diocesan boards and committees. He has served as chaplain for the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Nassau County. He serves on the Board for the Institute for Catholic Schools at his alma mater, St. John's University. He served in several capacities on the Catholic Faith Network including serving as one of the co-hosts of the award-winning program *Insight*.

At the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Brennan served as a member of the Committee for Catholic Education, the Administrative Committee, and the Priorities and Plans Committee.

Each month, Bishop Brennan celebrates Mass in English and in Spanish at the Nassau County Correctional Facility and periodically celebrates Mass at the other jails located on Long Island. He also celebrates Mass monthly for the Dominican Sisters of Amityville who taught him in Elementary School and in High School, along with the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.

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