



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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

50 North Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Tel: 516-678-5800, ext. 221 • Fax: 516-594-0984 • www.drvc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 JUNE 2019

BISHOP JOHN BARRES TO ORDAIN SIX MEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD ON JUNE 22, 2019



From left: Rev. Mr. Cody Bobick, Rev. Mr. Matthew Browne, Rev. Mr. Ken Grooms, Rev. Mr. Nelson Marquez, Rev. Mr. Alexander Turpin, Jr. and Rev. Mr. Roger Velasquez.

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK - June 10, 2019 - On June 22, 2019, Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre will ordain six men to the priesthood for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. The Mass of Ordination will take place in Saint Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre at 11:00 a.m. The Catholic Faith Network will broadcast the Mass live on: Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon Fios channel 296 and Time Warner Cable channel 471. Viewers can also watch the Mass online at www.cfntv.org. CFN will rebroadcast the Mass on Saturday evening at 9:00 p.m. EDT.

**Mass of Ordination
Saturday, June 22, 2019
11:00 a.m.
Saint Agnes Cathedral
29 Quealy Place
Rockville Centre, New York 11571**

Those being ordained are (alpha order): Rev. Mr. Cody Bobick, Rev. Mr. Matthew Browne, Rev. Mr. Ken Grooms, Rev. Mr. Nelson Marquez, Rev. Mr. Alexander Turpin, Jr. and Rev. Mr. Roger Velasquez.



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Newly ordained priests may be assigned to parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre where they will serve in the role of an associate pastor.

Deacon Cody Bobick

Home parish: Church of St. Frances de Chantal, Wantagh

First Mass: Sunday, June 23 at Noon at Saint Frances de Chantal, Wantagh

Deacon Cody Bobick is a native of Wantagh. He has been a parishioner at Saint Frances de Chantal parish his entire life. Deacon Bobick is a product of the public school system, having graduated from General Douglas MacArthur High School in Levittown in 2009. He then went on to study history and secondary education at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York.

Cody entered the seminary immediately following college, going first to the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation (Douglaston) where he received his M.A. in Catholic Philosophical Studies. Then, in 2014, he began his theological studies at Saint Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, New York.

Deacon Matthew Browne

Home parish: Church of Holy Name of Mary, Valley Stream

First Mass: Sunday, June 23 at 10:15 a.m. at Church of Holy Name of Mary, Valley Stream

Deacon Matthew Browne was born in Queens and raised in Valley Stream. He has been a parishioner of Holy Name of Mary parish his entire life. Matthew is a product of Catholic high school, having graduated from Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale.

Deacon Browne's seminary formation took place in Washington D.C. at Theological College, the National Seminary of the Catholic University of America. Having completed his Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (S.T.B.), he is pursuing a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) with a focus on Ecclesiology.

Deacon Ken Grooms

Home parish: Church of Cure of Ars, Merrick

First Mass: Sunday, June 23 at 1:00 p.m. at Church of Cure of Ars, Merrick



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A parishioner of the Church of Cure of Ars, Merrick, Deacon Ken Grooms was born into a Southern Baptist family in Charleston, South Carolina and converted to Catholicism while a philosophy graduate student at the University of South Carolina in 1987, the same year that Pope John Paul II came to that school. The following year Deacon Grooms moved to New York and worked as a full-time volunteer for the Missionaries of Charity in the South Bronx. He was blessed to meet Mother Teresa several times, and the future saint prayed for his vocation.

Ken then moved to Long Island and worked as a caregiver for a family in Merrick and as a cook at the Saint Pius X residence for retired priests.

In 2013, he spent almost a year as a Trappist monk at Mepkin Abbey in S.C., before discerning a call to the diocesan priesthood. He entered Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, a seminary specializing in late vocations in 2015. For the past three summers Deacon Grooms was assigned to the Church of Saint Patrick, Bay Shore and the Church of Corpus Christi, Mineola. He enjoyed both parishes and their pastors, Rev. Msgr. Thomas Coogan and Father Malcolm Burns.

Deacon Nelson Marquez

Home parish: Church of Our Lady of Victory, Floral Park

First Mass: June 23 at 3:00 p.m. at Church of Our Lady of Victory, Floral Park

Deacon Nelson Marquez was born in San Miguel, El Salvador. He grew up in a very Catholic family, his parents are Rigoberto Marquez and Sonia de Marquez. In his hometown in El Salvador, Deacon Nelson studied in a Catholic school, after high school, he studied economics in the National University of El Salvador. While studying, he met a priest at the Cathedral of his hometown who encouraged him to join the seminary, with the encouragement of the priest he decided to discern the priesthood.

In his vacations to Long Island he met Father Joseph Fitzgerald who helped him to discern the possibility of becoming a seminarian for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. After spending time visiting parishes on Long Island, observing the need of Hispanic priests in some communities he decided to serve the people of God on Long Island. Deacon Marquez completed his seminary formation at Saint Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie.

Deacon Alexander Turpin, Jr.

Home parish: Church of Saint John the Baptist, Wading River

First Mass: Sunday, June 23 at 10:30 a.m. at Church of Saint John the Baptist, Wading River



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Deacon Alexander Turpin is a native of Wading River, where he was homeschooled by his parents, Dawn and Alex Turpin. It was his parents who brought him up in the Church and who first helped him fall in love with Jesus Christ. Deacon Turpin is a licensed pilot and is an alumnus of Stony Brook University, having graduated with a degree in art history and criticism in 2013.

Following philosophy studies at Cathedral Seminary in Douglaston, Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre asked Alexander to continue his formation for the priesthood in Rome at the North American College. Alexander was ordained a Deacon at Saint Peter's Basilica, on September 27, 2018. With the encouragement and support of Bishop Barres, Deacon Turpin is undertaking postgraduate training in the fields of liturgy and Christian art.

Deacon Roger Velasquez

Home parish: Church of St. Jude, Mastic Beach

First Mass: Sunday, June 23 at 3:00 p.m. at Church of Saint Jude, Mastic Beach

Deacon Roger Velasquez was born in El Salvador and raised in Long Island. His home parish is Saint Jude, Mastic Beach. After graduating from high school, through prayer, discernment, and spiritual guidance, he entered Cathedral Seminary in Douglaston in 2010. He completed his time at Douglaston in 2015, earning a B.A. in Philosophy from Saint John's University, Queens, New York. Formation for priesthood took place at Saint Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, New York.

During his time in the seminary, Deacon Velasquez served at the Church of Saint Christopher, Baldwin; the Church of Saint Aidan, Williston Park; and the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, Rockville Centre, as well as Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan.

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About The Diocese of Rockville Centre

The Diocese of Rockville Centre (www.drvc.org) was formed in 1957 and covers 1,198 square miles in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The diocese serves approximately 1,428,296 baptized Catholics* (total population in both counties is approximately 3 million). There are 133 parishes plus 1 campus parish in 115 towns. The diocese is blessed with 392 priests in active ministry, 801 religious women, 34 Brothers and 285 permanent deacons. In 2018, 15,446 baptisms, 14,714 confirmations, 13,638 First Holy Communions and 2,569 Catholic marriages took place in the diocese. There are 13,722 students in Catholic elementary schools; 10,512 students in Catholic high schools and 4,980 students in higher institutions. There are 45 Catholic elementary schools (41 parish or regional and 4 private), 9 high schools (2 diocesan, 2 parish and 5 private) and one Catholic college (Molloy College, Rockville Centre) in the diocese. In 2018, there were 75,727 children in parish Faith Formation programs taught by 10,000 volunteer catechists. In 2018, Catholic clergy and community provided consolation to families and loved ones of 9,955 deceased Catholics at 3 diocesan and 20 parish cemeteries. Catholic Health Services (CHS) of Long Island is comprised of six hospitals, three health care centers, four homes for the aged, a regional home care and hospice network, and a community-based agency for persons with



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special needs. More than 17,500 employees and 4,600 credentialed physicians work within the CHS system. Catholic Charities provides *Care With Dignity...Life With Hope* to the poor, isolated, vulnerable, and disadvantaged on Long Island. In 2018, more than 600 staff members and 400 volunteers provided over 1.4 million face-to-face services to 45,460 people of all faiths and backgrounds from 60 service sites in Nassau and Suffolk counties. The single largest outreach to the People of God on Long Island is through the diocesan media outlets. The diocese maintains vibrant Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms. Catholic Faith Network, the diocesan television station broadcasts 24/7/365 to over millions of homes; *The Long Island Catholic Magazine*, the official diocesan print publication is mailed 10 times per year to over 12,000 subscribers; the weekly LICatholic E-newsletter is emailed to 8,000 recipients. The diocesan website drvc.org averages approximately 18,000 unique visitors each month; *Fe Fuerza Vida*, the official Diocesan Spanish-language newspaper has a circulation of 11,000 and is printed ten times each year. (5/19) *As of 2018

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CONTACT: Sean P. Dolan
Director of Communications
(p) 516-678-5800, ext. 625
(c) 516-510-0473
E-mail: sdolan@drvc.org