



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

29 MAY 2020

BISHOP JOHN BARRES TO ORDAIN TWO MEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD ON JUNE 20, 2020



From left: The Rev. Mr. John Crozier & the Rev. Mr. Rafal Borowiecki

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK – May 29, 2020 – On June 20, 2020, the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre, will ordain two men to the priesthood for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. The Mass of Priestly Ordination will take place at Saint Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, at 10:00 a.m. on that day.

The ordination will air live on Catholic Faith Network (CFN) at 10:00 a.m. It will be replayed later that evening at 8:00 p.m. Catholic Faith Network can be viewed on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296, and Spectrum channel 162/471. CFN is also available on selected cable and satellite systems and through live stream on CFNTV.org. You may also view CFN on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android, or by downloading the CFN iOS mobile app at the app store by searching “Catholic Faith Network” or “CFN”.

At the time of this press release, pursuant to New York State Executive Order, religious gatherings of more than ten people is prohibited. As of the date of this release, this ordination will, unfortunately, **not** be open to the public. For the safety of all, only a limited number of individuals deemed integral to the celebration of the Ordination Mass will be permitted inside the Cathedral. If a subsequent Executive Order affecting public gatherings for religious services is enacted that impacts the celebration of this Mass, the Diocese will issue an updated statement. Please visit www.drvc.org and Diocese of Rockville Centre social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) for updates.



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Mass of Ordination
Saturday, June 20, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Saint Agnes Cathedral
29 Quealy Place
Rockville Centre, New York 11571

Those being ordained are the Rev. Mr. Rafal Borowiejski and the Rev. Mr. John Crozier. The newly ordained priests will be assigned to parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre where they will both serve in the role of associate pastor.

Deacon Rafal Borowiejski

First Mass: Saturday, June 20, 2020, at St. Mary's Church, Manhasset.

Deacon Rafal Borowiejski was born an only child to his parents Adam and Maria Borowiejski on July 30, 1980 in Krakow, Poland. He was raised a Roman Catholic and, feeling a strong call to the priesthood after high school, Rafal entered the Major Seminary in Poland to discern his vocation. After taking some time off to care for his family, he decided to continue his desire to grow in the knowledge of his faith. He received his Master's degree in Theology at the Pontifical University of Saint John Paul II in Krakow. In 2013 he earned a Licentiate degree in Canon Law, and then began a Ph.D. program at the University. The call to the priesthood continued to stir in his heart and Rafal re-entered formation at the Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Krakow, which also has a campus in the United States.

After completing a year of formation in Poland, he continued his studies at the campus in Orchard Lake, Michigan. After some time, Rafal found himself having to return to Poland again to care for a sick family member for quite some time. When he was able to return to the United States, Rafal, after meeting Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski, applied for admission to the Seminary program for the Diocese of Rockville Centre in 2017.

He studied at the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation in Douglaston, New York, and from 2018 to 2019 he served under Fr. Bob Romeo at St. Mary's parish in Manhasset, which would become his home parish in the Diocese. He is currently finishing his studies at Saint Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York. During this time, he has also been serving at Saint Mary's parish in Roslyn.

He was ordained a transitional deacon on November 9, 2019, at Saint Joseph's Seminary by His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan.



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“I’m looking forward to my new parish and working with the people and with God, with Jesus Christ, and with the Blessed Virgin Mary,” said Deacon Borowiejski.

Deacon John Crozier

First Mass: Sunday, June 21, 2020, at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre.

Deacon John Crozier was born to Marion and John Crozier on September 23, 1993, and grew up as a parishioner of Saint Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre. He attended Saint Agnes Cathedral Elementary School went on to attend Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale. Due to the influential people in his life including his grandmother, priests, religious brothers and sisters, and lay people at Kellenberg, he began to discern a vocation to the priesthood.

In 2011, following graduation from high school, John entered the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation in Douglaston, New York. He majored in philosophy and minored in theology at Saint John’s University. After receiving his undergraduate degree, he entered Saint Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, New York.

While in the seminary, John served at Saint Anthony of Padua parish in Rocky Point, Saint John of God parish in Central Islip, and served a pastoral year at Saint Hugh of Lincoln parish in Huntington Station. In addition to these experiences, John also attended the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha, Nebraska, and developed his Spanish language skills in San Jose, Costa Rica. John was ordained a transitional deacon by His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan on November 9, 2019. Currently, John serves as a deacon at Notre Dame Parish in New Hyde Park.

Deacon Crozier came to realize in high school that “the truest desires and greatest longings of the human heart are found in God; the way that He helps us to recognize that most clearly is through the encounter with His Church and, in a particular way, through his priests.” As he prepares to accept his first priestly assignment, Deacon Crozier looks forward to bringing that message of joy and hope to the faithful of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

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



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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 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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