



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

POPE NAMES REV. MSGR. WILLIAM KOENIG AS BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON (DELAWARE)

- ***Press Conference livestreamed/posted to DRVC Facebook page at 10:30 AM***

Mass of Thanksgiving livestreamed/posted to DRVC Facebook page at 12:10 PM

- ***Installation set for July 13, 2021***



ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK – April 30, 2021 – The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has named Reverend Monsignor William E. Koenig, the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington (Delaware). The appointment was publicized in Washington, April 30, 2021 by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

Bishop-elect Koenig (*pronounced Kay-nig*) will be introduced to the Diocese of Wilmington at a news conference at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, West 6th Street and North West Street, Wilmington, Delaware today at 10:30 AM EDT. Bishop-elect Koenig follows the Most Reverend W. Francis Malooly who has served as bishop since 2008.

At 12:10 PM, Bishop Malooly will preside at a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral in which Bishop-elect Koenig will concelebrate. Both the news conference and the Mass will be livestreamed on the Diocese of Rockville Centre Facebook page: [@RVCdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/RVCdiocese).

“I am grateful to our Holy Father Pope Francis for appointing Bishop-elect William Koenig the Bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington,” said the Most Reverend John Barres, Bishop, Diocese of Rockville Centre. “Bishop-elect Koenig is a seasoned and experienced pastor who is known for his pastoral charity, his humility and his sincerity. He radiates an evangelizing spirit of joy and gentle interior peace that is the fruit of a deep prayer life and years of serving parishioners in a wide range of parishes, ministries and apostolates on Long Island.



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“Bishop-elect Koenig is a pastoral artist of parish life and a champion of Catholic education, Catholic Social Justice teaching and the Gospel of Human Life. He is a Good Samaritan priest servant to youth, the elderly, the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, the migrant and the refugee. He is known for being a priest’s priest who has the respect, trust, affection and esteem of priests of every age and generation.”

“I express my deep gratitude for the trust placed in me by His Holiness, Pope Francis in appointing me the tenth Bishop of Wilmington, Delaware,” said Bishop-elect Koenig. “I am especially grateful for my family who, when I was still an infant, presented me for Baptism and nurtured the new Life of the Risen Christ that came about through this Sacrament. I am grateful for the priests, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Rockville Centre whose faith-filled example has enabled me to say “yes” to God’s calling to be a Priest and now a Bishop. I am thankful to Bishop Barres, Bishop Murphy and all the Bishops of the Diocese of Rockville Centre for their pastoral leadership and continual support and encouragement.

“As I look ahead to being ordained and installed as the Bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington, I look forward to meeting and getting to know the priests, religious and laity of Wilmington. Ever mindful of the legacy of faith that has been proclaimed since the Diocese was erected in 1868, I look forward with eager anticipation to continuing the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the State of Delaware and the nine counties on the Eastern shore of Maryland of which the Diocese of Wilmington is comprised.”

Bishop-elect William Koenig

Bishop-elect Koenig was born on August 17, 1956 in Queens, New York. Bishop-elect Koenig grew up in East Meadow where he and his family were parishioners of St. Raphael’s Church. He attended St. Raphael’s Elementary School, St. Pius X Preparatory Seminary in Uniondale, Cathedral College in Douglaston, New York and the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, New York. After ordination, he also attended Fordham University from which he received a Master of Social Work degree.

Bishop-elect Koenig was ordained to the Priesthood by the Most Reverend John R. McGann at St. Agnes Cathedral on May 14, 1983. His first assignment as a priest was to the Parish of St. Edward the Confessor in Syosset, New York. After five years at St. Edward’s, he served for one year in the Parish of St. James in Setauket where he also assisted in the Campus Ministry Program at State University of Stony Brook. In 1989, he was appointed the Diocesan Director of Vocations with Residence at the Cathedral Residence of the Immaculate Conception in Douglaston, New York. As a resident, he assisted the staff of four other priests in helping to form seminarians from the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre for the Priesthood as they completed college or Pre-Theology requirements.



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In 1990, Bishop-elect Koenig was assigned as Diocesan Director of Ministry to Priests while continuing to serve as Diocesan Director of Vocations. Upon the completion of his assignment in 1996 as Directors of Vocations and Ministry to Priests, Bishop-elect Koenig served from 1996 to 2000 as Parochial Vicar at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, New York. In 2000, he was appointed Pastor of St. William the Abbot in Seaford, New York where he continued to serve until 2009. During his term as Pastor at St. Williams, Bishop-elect Koenig in 2007 was named Chaplain to His Holiness by Pope Benedict XVI. In 2009, he was appointed the Rector of St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, New York. His service as Rector concluded in 2020 when he was appointed the Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

In addition to his Diocesan Assignments, Bishop-elect Koenig has served in a number of roles and Boards in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. He has been the Dean of both the Seaford Deanery as well as the Rockville Centre Deanery. He has been a member of the Diocesan Presbyteral Council and the College of Consultors. He has represented the Diocese of Rockville Centre in the Priests Council of New York State. Monsignor Koenig has been the Moderator of CYO of Long Island and is a Board Member of Unitas which serves as an investment corporation for parishes and diocesan entities.

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