



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications

P.O. Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023

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

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6:01 AM EST ON 11/23/22

23 November 2022

**POPE FRANCIS NAMES MOST REVEREND RICHARD G. HENNING
COADJUTOR BISHOP OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**

- ***Streamed press conference - 10:00 a.m. on DRVC.org; DRVC social media***
- ***Will concelebrate Noon Mass in Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Providence***
- ***Mass of Reception set for January 26, 2023, at 2 p.m.***

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. – November 23, 2022 – Pope Francis today appointed



Most Reverend Richard G. Henning, S.T.D. as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island with right of succession and has accepted the resignation of Most Reverend Robert C. Evans, J.C.L. as Auxiliary Bishop of Providence.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, made the announcement public earlier today in Washington, D.C. Bishop Henning is currently an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre and serves as Vicar for Clergy Personnel.

Bishop Henning will be introduced to the Diocese of Providence at a streamed press conference at 10:00 a.m. in the lower-level hall of the Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul, 30 Fenner St., Providence, RI. This press conference is limited to credentialed media and Diocese of Providence Chancery staff only. Bishop Henning will then celebrate Mass at Noon in Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral. The press conference and Mass will be streamed on the Diocesan YouTube Channel: <https://provd.io/youtube>.

A special CFN interview of Bishop Henning can be viewed by clicking here:

- English Video - <https://vimeo.com/773500230/4434cd9e50>
- Spanish Message - <https://vimeo.com/773501580/3625f0b2db>

The interview can also be viewed on the diocesan website: www.drvc.org and the diocesan Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media platforms.



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The Mass of Reception will take place on January 26, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul.

“Bishop Richard Henning is a wise pastor, a gifted theologian, and a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ,” said Most Reverend John Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre, New York. “In him, the Diocese of Providence truly receives a good shepherd. An erudite Biblical scholar with a powerful mind, Bishop Henning combines a deep knowledge of the Scriptures with a tremendous passion for the Word of God. He is a talented teacher and has shared his love for God’s Word in classes and courses throughout his priesthood, most especially as a seminary professor.

“The Diocese of Rockville Centre formed Bishop Henning in the Faith he so generously shared and for thirty years was the beneficiary of his dedicated, refined, and courageous priestly and episcopal ministry. With deep gratitude for his friendship and service among us, we promise prayers as he puts out into the deep and serves the people of God in Providence,” said Bishop Barres.

“On this eve of the Thanksgiving Feast, I give thanks to almighty God ‘from Whom all blessings flow,’” said Bishop Henning. “I am grateful to His Holiness, Pope Francis, for the call to serve as coadjutor bishop in the Diocese of Providence. I am also grateful Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio, and to Bishop Barres for his encouragement and mentoring. I give thanks for the opportunity to learn from Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, and I give thanks for the priestly and episcopal witness of Bishop Robert Evans who retires today,” said Bishop Henning.

About Bishop Henning

On June 8, 2018, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States announced that Pope Francis had appointed Rev. Msgr. Richard Garth Henning to be an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. On July 24, 2018, in St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, New York, Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop, Diocese of Rockville Centre ordained Bishop-Elect Henning an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Most Reverend William Murphy, Bishop-Emeritus, Diocese of Rockville Centre and Most Reverend Robert Brennan, then Vicar General, Diocese of Rockville Centre and Auxiliary Bishop were co-consecrators.

Bishop Henning was born in Rockville Centre, New York in 1964 to Richard and Maureen Henning, the first of five siblings. He grew up in Valley Stream receiving the sacraments



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of baptism, first Holy Communion, and confirmation at Holy Name of Mary Parish, where he also attended the parish grammar school. In the summers, Bishop Henning spent a good deal of time on a small island in the Great South Bay where his family has gone for generations. There, he developed a lifelong passion for the water, sailing, boating, and kayaking on the bay.

Bishop Henning attended Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York and counts the Marianists as a major influence in his faith life and commitment to learning. He received a BA and MA in History from St. John's University, Queens New York and received his training for the priesthood at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington New York. He was ordained in 1992 and served for five years as an associate pastor at the Church of St. Peter of Alcantara, Port Washington. In that assignment, he did extensive pastoral work in the large parish school and ministered to the Spanish-speaking Catholics of that peninsula. In addition to fluency in English and Spanish, Bishop Henning speaks Italian and can read French, Greek and Hebrew.

In 1997, Bishop McGann assigned then Father Henning to post-graduate studies in Sacred Scripture. He earned a Licentiate in Biblical Theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and a Doctorate in the same from the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, Italy.

After his studies, Bishop Henning joined the faculty of the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, where he taught scripture for more than ten years. In 2012, as part of the partnership for seminary formation among the Dioceses of Rockville Centre, Brooklyn, and the Archdiocese of New York, then Rev. Msgr. Henning was appointed to lead the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception through its transition to the largest retreat house in the Northeast. The Ordinaries of Rockville Centre, Brooklyn and New York also charged him to establish and lead the Sacred Heart Institute for the ongoing formation of Catholic priests and deacons. Bishop Henning is also noted for his work with international priests serving in the U.S.

Bishop Barres appointed Bishop Henning the interim Episcopal Vicar for the Central Vicariate of the Diocese of Rockville Centre in September of 2017. As of June 2021, Bishop Henning has served as the Vicar for Clergy and the Vicar for Pastoral Planning.

Bishop Henning has also been active in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, serving on the Doctrine Committee, the Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America,



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and as the Chair of the Subcommittee for the Translation of the Sacred Scriptures. He was recently appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

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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 1.4 million baptized Catholics* (total population in both counties is approximately 2.9 million). There are 132 parishes plus 1 campus parish in 115 towns. The diocese is blessed with 336 total priests, 703 religious women, 61 Brothers and 275 permanent deacons. In 2020, 13,526 baptisms, 11,583 confirmations, 11,760 First Holy Communions and 2,169 Catholic marriages took place in the diocese. There are 11,077 students in Catholic elementary schools; 10,407 students in Catholic high schools and 3,409 students in higher institutions. There are 35 Catholic elementary schools (31 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 2020, there were 66,578 children in parish Faith Formation programs. In 2020, Catholic clergy and community provided consolation to families and loved ones of 9,439 deceased Catholics at 4 diocesan and 20 parish cemeteries. Catholic Health 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 CH system. Catholic Charities provides *Care With Dignity...Life With Hope* to the poor, isolated, vulnerable, and disadvantaged on Long Island. In 2020, 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 broadcasts 24/7/365 to millions of homes; the weekly DRVC E-newsletter is emailed to more than 10,000 recipients. The diocesan website drvc.org averages approximately 18,000 unique visitors each month. *As of 2020