THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS

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PRESS RELEASE

Dated: March 5, 2019

Pope Francis names Bishop David P. Talley, sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Memphis in Tennessee – Installation set for April 2, 2019

On March 5, 2019, His Holiness Pope Francis named the Most Reverend David Prescott Talley as the sixth Bishop of Memphis. Bishop Talley is the bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana. He will be introduced to the clergy, faithful and public today at a press conference at the Catholic Center for the Diocese of Memphis. Bishop Talley will be installed on April 2, 2019. Time, place and details of the ceremony will be announced in the near future.

BACKGROUND: DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS

The Diocese of Memphis in Tennessee was established on January 6, 1971, by Pope St. Paul VI. The diocese comprises the counties of Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, and Weakley in the State of Tennessee.

There are 1,561,304 people living in the diocese; the Catholic population is 61,793. The diocese comprises 42 parishes, 6 missions, 1 university, 6 high schools (3 private, 2 diocesan and 1 parish), 18 elementary schools (10 parish, 6 diocesan, and 2 private). The total number of students under Catholic instruction, including parish faith formation, is 11,266.

The total number of priests in the diocese is 91. There are 81 diocesan priests and 10 religious priests. Sixty-one diocesan priests are active in ministry in the diocese; two diocesan priests are active in ministry outside the diocese. Seventeen priests are retired, sick or absent. There are 9 extern priests. The diocese is also served by 74 permanent deacons, 38 religious brothers, 37 religious sisters and 71 lay ministers.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT BISHOP DAVID TALLEY

Bishop David Prescott Talley was born on September 11, 1950, in Columbus, Georgia. He was raised as a Southern Baptist but converted to Catholicism while a student at Auburn University. He was received into the Catholic Church at the age of 24 at Saint Mary Church, Opelika, Alabama. Family members of Bishop Talley remain faithful Baptists, including a brother who is a deacon. Noting that his background gives him a broad view, he has said, "I do know faith across the spectrum."

After his studies at Auburn, he later obtained a master's degree in social work from the University of Georgia and worked as a case worker in Fulton County, Georgia, to protect children from abuse. He studied for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Indiana and obtained a Master of Divinity degree in 1989. Bishop Talley was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1989, at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta.

As a priest of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Bishop Talley served as a parochial vicar, administrator, and pastor of a number of parishes. From 1993 to 1998, Bishop Talley studied at Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome where he obtained a doctorate in canon law. Bishop Talley also served part-time in the archdiocesan Tribunal, as the Director of Vocations, and as Chancellor of the Archdiocese. In 2001, he was named a chaplain to His Holiness Saint John Paul II, with the title "Monsignor."

One of his roles in the Atlanta Archdiocese was as chaplain to the disabilities ministry. He has said that his experience ministering among people with disabilities, which began at his first parish assignment, is key to his spiritual life. "All they can do is ask the Lord for help. That simplicity and humility is where I think the church should be -- humble before God," he said in an interview in 2013.

On December 17, 2012, while serving as pastor of Saint Brigid Church in Johns Creek, Georgia, Pope Benedict XVI named Msgr. Talley an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and he was ordained to the episcopacy on April 2, 2013. His episcopal motto is *Dabo Vobis Cor Novum,* which is translated "He will give you a new heart." Bishop Talley also served as vicar general of the Archdiocese of Atlanta and director of Priest Personnel and was a member of the Council of Priests and the Committee for Ongoing Formation.

On September 21, 2016, Bishop Talley was appointed coadjutor bishop of Alexandria, Louisiana and became the twelfth Bishop of Alexandria on February 2, 2017, upon the retirement of Bishop Ronald P. Herzog.

On March 5, 2019, it was announced that His Holiness Pope Francis had named Bishop Talley as the sixth Bishop of Memphis.

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

STATEMENT ON APPOINTMENT OF THE MOST REVEREND DAVID P. TALLEY AS BISHOP OF MEMPHIS

It is with deep joy that I join with the faithful of the Diocese of Memphis in welcoming Bishop David P. Talley as the 6th bishop of Memphis and thanking our Holy Father Pope Francis for this wonderful appointment. Bishop Talley, 68 years old, brings a wealth of experience as a priest for almost 30 years and as a bishop in his sixth year. He has served well as a diocesan bishop of Alexandria in Louisiana and as a canon lawyer. Most importantly, he brings the heart of a pastor and a sterling reputation as a good shepherd devoted to Jesus Christ and His Church, deeply concerned for those he serves, humble, and wise.

As the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Memphis for the past four months, I can readily testify that Bishop Talley brings the spiritual mindset of Christ and the pastoral skills that will serve the Diocese of Memphis well. As the Archbishop of Louisville, I warmly welcome Bishop Talley into the Province of Louisville and happily pledge my support to him in the days ahead.

Ad multos annos - may he serve for many fruitful years.

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Apostolic Administrator – Diocese of Memphis
March 5, 2019

HOW BISHOPS ARE APPOINTED

Introduction

The ultimate decision in appointing bishops rests with the Pope, and he is free to select anyone he chooses. But how does he determine the man to select?

The process for selecting candidates for the episcopacy normally begins at the diocesan level and works its way through a series of consultations until it reaches Rome. It is a process bound by strict confidentiality and involves a number of important players – the most influential being the Apostolic Nuncio, the Congregation for Bishops, and the Pope. It can be a time-consuming process, often taking eight months or more to complete. While there are distinctions between the appointment of a priest to the Office of Bishop, a bishop's later transfer to another diocese, or a bishop's promotion to archbishop, the basic outlines of the process remain the same.

Key Terms

Apostolic Nuncio or Papal Nuncio

The Pope's representative to both the government and to the hierarchy of a given nation; the nuncio is a key person in deciding what names are recommended to the Congregation for Bish- ops in Rome for possible episcopal appointment.

Congregation for Bishops

A department of the Vatican's Roman Curia, headed by a Cardinal. The head of the Congregation, called the "Prefect." Among the Congregation's responsibilities are moderating all aspects of episcopal appointments; assisting bishops in the correct exercise of their pastoral functions; handling ad limina visits (regular visits to Rome by bishops every five years); and establishing episcopal conferences and reviewing their decrees as required by canon law.

Diocesan Bishop

Pastoral and legal head and representative of a diocese.

Terna

A list of three candidates for a vacant office.

Curricula Vitae

An account of a member of the clergy's education, experience, career, and qualifications for ministry.

Stage 1: Recommendations of bishops

Every bishop may submit to the archbishop of his province the names of priests he thinks would make good bishops. Prior to the regular province meeting (usually annually), the archbishop distributes to all the bishops of the province the names and curricula vitaes of priests that have been submitted to him. Following a discussion among the bishops, a vote is taken on which names to recommend, should the occasion arise. The vote tally, together with the minutes of the meeting, is then forwarded by the archbishop to the apostolic nuncio in Washington. The list is also submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Stage 2: The Apostolic Nuncio

By overseeing the final list of names forwarded to Rome, the apostolic nuncio not only gathers facts and information about poten- tial candidates, but also interprets that information for the Congregation for Bishops in Rome. Great weight is given to the nuncio's recommendations, but it is important to remember that the nuncio's role as "gatekeeper," however, does not mean that his recommendations are always followed.

For Diocesan Bishops

- *After receiving the list of candidates forwarded by a province, the apostolic nuncio conducts his own investigation into the suitability of the candidates.*
- *A report is requested from the current bishop or the administrator of a diocese on the conditions and needs of the diocese. If the appointment is a replacement for a diocesan bishop or archbishop about to retire, consideration will be given to the incumbent's recommendations. Broad consultation within the diocese is encouraged with regard to the needs of the diocese, but not necessarily the names of candidates.*
- *The report is to include the names of individuals in the diocese with whom the Nuncio might consult and how to contact them.*
- *Previous bishops of the diocese are usually consulted.*
- *The president and vice-president of the USCCB are consulted.*
- *If the vacancy to be filled is an archdiocese, other archbishops in the United States may be consulted.*
- *At this point, the nuncio narrows his list and a questionnaire is sent to 20 or 30 people who know each of the candidates for their input.*
- *All material is collected and reviewed by the nuncio, and a report is prepared. Three candidates are listed alphabetically – called the "terna" – with the nuncio's preference noted. All materials are then forwarded to the Congregation for Bishops in Rome.*

Stage 3: Congregation for Bishops

Once all the documentation from the nuncio is complete and in order, and the Prefect of The Congregation for Bishops approves, the process moves forward. If the appointment involves a bishop who is being transferred, the matter may be handled by the Prefect and the staff. If, however, the appointment is of a priest to the episcopacy, the full Congregation is ordinarily involved.

A cardinal relator is chosen to summarize the documentation and make a report to the full Congregation, which generally meets twice a month on Thursdays. After hearing the cardinal relator's report, the Congregation discusses the appointment and then votes. The Congregation may follow the recommendation of the nuncio, choose another candidate on the terna, or ask that another terna be pre- pared.

Stage 4: The Pope's Decision

At a private audience with the Pope, usually on a Saturday, the Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops presents the recommendations of the Congregation to the Holy Father. A few days later, the Pope informs the Congregation of his decision. The Congregation then notifies the nuncio, who in turn contacts the candidate and asks if he will accept. If the answer is "yes," the Vatican is notified and

a date is set for the announcement. It often takes six to eight months from the time a diocese becomes vacant until a new bishop is appointed, sometimes longer.

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SYMBOLS *of a* BISHOP

A bishop, from the Greek word *episkopos* (overseer), is a direct successor to the apostles. Bishops have, by divine institution, taken the place of the apostles as pastors of the church. The appointment of **Bishop David P. Talley** as the sixth Bishop of the **Diocese of Memphis in Tennessee** focuses a spotlight on symbols of a bishop. In fact, the bishop himself is a symbol and is surrounded by symbols.

Bishops wear certain regalia distinctive of the Order of Bishop, the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders - the pectoral cross, ring, miter, and crozier (staff). Let us look at some of them.

The Bishop's Chair

In ancient times, a chair was a sign of authority to teach. The bishop's chair is called a cathedra from the Latin word for chair and it is the presence of the bishop's cathedra in a church that makes it a cathedral. The bishop's chair, then is a symbol of the bishop's teaching office and pastoral power in his diocese. It is also a sign of the unity of believers in the faith that the bishop proclaims as shepherd of the Lord's flock.

Coat of Arms

A bishop's coat of arms is distinguished by a sign of his rank. That sign, placed over the shield, is a particular version of an ecclesiastical hat that was worn in processions, as late as 1870. The hat is low-crowned, flat, and wide-brimmed. On a bishop's coat of arms, the hat is green and hanging from it are 12 green tassels, six on each side. There's also a processional cross above the shield. The cross on a bishop's coat of arms has one bar; an archbishop's cross has two. The design of the shield itself differs from bishop to bishop.

Miter

The miter is the proper liturgical headdress for all bishops of the Latin rite, including the pope. The word comes from the Greek word mitra, meaning "turban." It consists of two stiffened flaps of material joined by a headband with two fringed strips hanging from the back base of the miter. The miter as we know it today developed from the conical head-covering worn by the pope that appeared in the 10th century. At first, it was only used by the pope.

Pectoral Cross

The pectoral cross gets its name because it is worn over the breast, or pectus, hanging from a green cord intertwined with gold threads. There are rules determining whether it is worn over or under whatever the bishop is wearing. If he's in a suit and collar, the pectoral cross is usually placed in the vest pocket with the chain showing.

Crozier

The crozier is a pastoral staff that is conferred on bishops (and abbots) at their installation. In the West, the top of the staff is curved to remind the bishop of the shepherd's crook and of his pastoral care of the people entrusted to him. It is a sign of the bishop's need to keep watch over his whole flock, sustaining the weak and faltering, confirming those wavering in faith, and leading back the erring ones into the true fold.

Ring

The bishop's ring is a symbol of the bishop's fidelity to and nuptial bond with the Church, his spouse. It signifies the bishop's symbolic marriage to the Church or Christ. The bishop's ring is usually made of gold with an amethyst. The bishop's ring was first mentioned as an official part of the bishop's insignia in the early seventh century.

Zucchetto

The zucchetto is a skullcap worn, particularly by prelates, since the 13th century. The pope wears a white zucchetto; cardinals, a red zucchetto; and bishops, a purple zucchetto. Everyone else wears black.