



Catholic Diocese of Memphis

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Deacon Felix Pesce

**Deacon at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Memphis
Home Parish is The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**

Deacon Felix Pesce will be ordained by Bishop David P. Talley into the Presbyterate within the Catholic Diocese of Memphis at our Mother Church, The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, June 6, 2026.

Deacon Felix Pesce was born in Memphis, Tenn., on February 24, 1965, and is the second to oldest of four siblings. He grew up as a parishioner of St. Paul Catholic Church in Whitehaven and attended school there until eighth grade. Felix then went on to attend Bishop Byrne Catholic High School where he wrestled, ran cross country, and participated in the Diocesan SEARCH Retreat. He then went to the University of Memphis where he graduated with a degree in Finance/Real Estate in the Fall 1987.

Felix first wanted to be a Priest in third grade, but that desire quickly dissipated. Throughout High School and College, he held various jobs in the service industry and retail. He went on to have a career in the grocery business started by his father Nick Pesce when Felix was an infant. In 2012, the business was sold and Felix began doing Ministry by bringing communion to the Sick and volunteering at Catholic Charities of West Tennessee. He started his own personal training business in 2014, while continuing to be involved in Ministry.

In 2016, Felix began to attend daily mass at 6:30am at The Cathedral. He felt the Lord tugging at his heart when a friend invited him to make a pilgrimage in Italy named the “Way of St. Francis.” He backpacked from Assisi to Rome, following the path that St. Francis of Assisi walked when he began his Ministry. His actual conversion started during daily mass when the Priest would pray for Vocations after every Mass. Felix remembers daily Mass being the place where he felt most at peace. The love he developed for the Eucharist led to his discernment to the Priesthood and in 2019 applied to our Diocese.

He was accepted to St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, St., Meinrad, Ind., where he started in the Fall 2020. He received his Master of Divinity Degree in Philosophy in the Spring 2022. He continued his studies at St. Meinrad where he graduated in December 2025 with a Master of Divinity in Theology.

Father Felix Pesce will celebrate his Mass of Thanksgiving at The Cathedral, the evening of his Ordination, Vigil Mass, June 6, at 5:00pm.

Effective July 1, 2026, Father Felix Pesce will be assigned as Parochial Vicar at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Memphis.