

News Release



Catholic Diocese of Memphis

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For Immediate Release

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Max Howard Named Associate Director of Safety and Security for Catholic Diocese of Memphis

Memphis, Tenn. - June 24, 2026 -- Catholic Diocese of Memphis is pleased to announce that Max Howard has recently joined the Diocese as Associate Director of Safety and Security. He reports to Bill Hecht, Director of the Office of Facilities and Risk Management for the Diocese. Howard is already assisting the Diocese's parishes, schools, and ministries across West Tennessee in strengthening safety and security measures.

"Max is a great addition to our staff in leading our safety and security efforts," said Bishop David P. Talley. "He brings a strong background in law enforcement and his extensive experience in community protection will be a tremendous asset to our Diocesan family. Please join me in prayer by welcoming Max to this important role as we continue our commitment to providing safe and secure environments for everyone involved in our Diocese."

In this new leadership role, Howard is responsible for working with the Diocese's parishes, schools, and ministries to conduct risk assessments, provide safety training for staff and volunteer teams, assist with emergency preparedness planning and drills, and collaborate with law enforcement agencies on investigations involving crimes occurring on Diocesan properties.

Howard is a lifelong member of the Catholic community and a graduate of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School, Christian Brothers High School, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management with a minor in Business Administration. He retired from the Memphis Police Department at the rank of Major after 25 years of distinguished service.

During his law enforcement career, Howard served as Special Operations Executive Officer, overseeing the Aviation Unit, TACT Unit, Bomb Unit, Canine Unit, Mounted Patrol Unit, and Harbor Patrol Unit. He also served on the Fugitive Extradition Team with the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office. In addition, Howard holds Federal Aviation Administration commercial pilot licenses for both airplanes and helicopters.

"I am honored to join the Catholic Diocese of Memphis and serve in this safety and security position," said Howard. "I look forward to working with our clergy and many dedicated people to help strengthen safety and security throughout our Diocese. I ask for your prayers as I begin this work and seek to fully support all of our faithful and operations in every way possible."

Howard and his wife, Shannon, a registered nurse, have been married for 28 years and have two adult children, Zachary and Maia.

About Catholic Diocese of Memphis

Our Catholic Diocese of Memphis was established in 1971 and presently consists of 46 parishes with 13 Catholic schools (diocesan, parochial, and private) in four deaneries across 21 counties in West Tennessee. More than 70,000 Catholics make this diverse, vibrant, and faith-filled Diocese their home. Led by Bishop David P. Talley, our Diocese is committed to helping the faithful encounter the living Christ through conversion, communion, service, and unity. We respectfully serve all God's children, regardless of their religious beliefs, socio-economic status, or ethnic background. Visit us at: cdom.org.