



Diocese of Austin

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Msgr. Sis appointed Bishop of San Angelo

AUSTIN – We announce to you a great joy: Msgr. Michael Sis, Vicar General of the Diocese of Austin, was appointed today by Pope Francis as the sixth Bishop of San Angelo. He will replace retiring Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, DD, who was appointed Bishop of San Angelo by Pope John Paul II in 1985.

Bishop-elect Sis will be ordained and installed as bishop at 2 p.m. on January 27 at the McNease Convention Center in San Angelo. Established on Oct. 16, 1961, the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Angelo encompasses some 37,433 square miles. It comprises 29 counties in West and Central Texas: Andrews, Brown, Callahan, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Ector, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Kimble, Martin, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Pecos, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Taylor, Terrell, Tom Green and Upton. Major cities in the diocese are: Abilene, Big Spring, Brownwood, Fort Stockton, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo and Sweetwater.

Bishop-elect Sis will hold a press conference at 10 a.m. today in San Angelo and a second press conference at the Diocese of Austin Pastoral Center today at 4 p.m.

Bishop Joe S. Vásquez appointed then-Msgr. Sis as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia in June 2010. Bishop-elect Sis assisted Bishop Vásquez as coordinator of diocesan administration and as supervisor of the secretariat directors. (The Curia is the collective body of persons and offices assisting the diocesan bishop in governing the diocese.)

Bishop-elect Sis was ordained as a priest for the Diocese of Austin in 1986 by Bishop John E. McCarthy. He was born on Jan. 9, 1960 as the fourth of five children of Raymond and Janice Sis. He grew up in Bryan.

He earned an undergraduate degree in Philosophy in 1982 from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., where he attended Moreau Seminary. He studied Theology at the North American College in Rome, receiving degrees from the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1985 and the Alphonsian Academy of the Pontifical Lateran University in 1990.

Bishop-elect Sis has served in a variety of roles in the Diocese of Austin. His first assignment was in Hispanic ministry at Cristo Rey Parish in East Austin. He assisted Bishop John E. McCarthy and Msgr. Edward C. Matocha in the administration of historic St. Mary Cathedral in downtown Austin. His longest term of service was in campus ministry at St. Mary Catholic Center at Texas A&M University in College Station, serving first as associate pastor and then as pastor, for a total of 13½ years. Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond then appointed him in 2006 as full-time Vocation Director for the Diocese of Austin. Then, after serving one year as pastor of the large suburban parish of St. Thomas More in Austin, he was named Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia by Bishop Joe S. Vásquez in 2010.

Over the years, he has served as a member of the Presbyteral Council, the Priest Personnel Board, the College of Consultors, the Vocation Team, the Permanent Diaconate Admissions Committee, and the Bishop's Advisory Council. He also served as Dean of the Bryan-College Station Deanery.

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The Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin includes 127 parishes, or faith communities, in 25 counties in Central Texas. The diocese stretches over 21,000 square miles from West, Texas, (just north of Waco) in the north to San Marcos in the south to the Bryan/College Station area in the east to Mason in the west. Its largest metropolitan areas are Austin, Bryan/College Station, the Killeen/Temple/Belton area and Waco. More than 110,000 Catholic families live in the diocese, approximately 536,183 Catholics. There are 220 priests, 165 deacons, 51 brothers and 94 sisters serving in the diocese.