



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth
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Fort Worth Anglicans to be Received into the Catholic Church

Twenty-four Fort Worth area Anglicans will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church during a Mass of Reception at 2 p.m., Sunday, September 25, 2011 at Fort Worth's St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton.

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Bishop Kevin W. Vann will preside at the Mass of Reception during which the former Episcopalians will be received into the Catholic Church.

The new Catholics have come from four Anglican parishes in the Greater Fort Worth region. The Anglicans are some of the first to enter the Catholic Church after the Church responded to Anglicans who sought union with Catholics.

Pope Benedict XVI established a means for Anglicans to come into the corporate reunion with the Church while maintaining many of their familiar traditions in November of 2009 through the Apostolic Constitution, *Anglicanorum coetibus*. The constitution outlined the process by which a new structure within the Catholic Church, similar to the Military Archdiocese, can be established to incorporate individuals or groups of faithful Anglicans who seek reunion with the Catholic Church.

The former Anglicans went through a year of special catechetical and pastoral formation in collaboration with the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth to prepare them for reception into full communion with the Catholic Church. Other area North Texas Anglicans are in the midst of similar preparations.

With their reception at the Sunday ceremony, the former Anglicans will be Catholics.

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

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“This is a truly blessed event not only in the Diocese of Fort Worth, but also in the Universal Church as we are truly beginning to witness the first fruits of the efforts of the Holy Father and the upcoming Ordinariate,” Bishop Vann said in reflecting on Sunday’s Mass of Reception. “The faith and vision of these individuals who are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church has been such a witness to all in North Texas.”

In addition to his work with Fort Worth area former Anglicans, Bishop Vann was named in September 2010 to a U.S. Catholic bishops’ ad hoc committee which is assisting the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) to guide the incorporation of Anglican groups into the Catholic Church of the United States.

The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith named Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl as its delegate and the head the ad hoc committee of U.S. bishops. In addition to Bishop Vann, Worcester, Massachusetts Bishop Robert McManus is a member of the ad hoc committee.

The ad hoc committee is charged with two tasks:

1. To act as the representative of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for the implementation of *Anglicanorum coetibus* in the United States
2. To assess the level of interest in such an ordinariate in the United States

No date has been announced for the creation of United States Ordinariate.

The first ordinariate to be established under the new rules issued by Pope Benedict was the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, which was formed earlier this year in England and is headed by a former bishop of the Church of England, Monsignor Keith Newton.