



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

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Auxiliary Bishop Edward M. Rice Named Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Bishop Rice will be the seventh bishop of this neighboring diocese

ST. LOUIS – Pope Francis announced at noon today in Rome (5:00 a.m. St. Louis time) that Most Reverend Edward M. Rice, Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis, has been named Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau. This position was vacated by Most Reverend James V. Johnston who was installed as Bishop of Kansas City – St. Joseph on November 4, 2015.

Bishop-designate Rice has served as a priest in the Archdiocese of St. Louis since his ordination in January 1987 by Archbishop John L. May. During this time, he has served as associate pastor at Our Lady of the Presentation Parish (1987-1991), religion teacher at St. Mary's High School while residing at St. Mary Magdalen Parish (1991-1995), Director at Cardinal Glennon College Seminary (1995-2000), pastor at St. John the Baptist (2000-2008) and Director of Vocations (2008-2010). He was appointed the title Monsignor in July 2008 and Auxiliary Bishop in December 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI.

During his episcopacy for the past five years, Bishop-designate Rice has served as vicar over five of the diocesan deaneries and overseen many of the ministries of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, including Vocations, Consecrated Life, Intercultural and Interreligious Affairs, Priest Personnel, Youth Protection and St. Charles Lwanga Center.

"I am extremely grateful to Bishop Rice for his many years of service to the Archdiocese of St. Louis and congratulate him on this new appointment from Pope Francis," said Archbishop Robert Carlson. "The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is blessed beyond measure to receive a man of his quality and dedication. Bishop Rice is a pastor first, one who carries the joy of the resurrected Christ into his daily ministry. I have appreciated these years of collaboration with Bishop Rice and speak on behalf of his brother priests and the faithful of the archdiocese in saying he will be deeply missed. May God grant him many years of fruitful service leading the faithful in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau."

Tentatively scheduled, Bishop-designate Rice will be installed in Springfield, MO on Wednesday, June 1. Details will follow as they become available.

A farewell celebration to include a Mass of Thanksgiving and Reception at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis is scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome.

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