



PRESS RELEASE

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Vatican appoints new bishop to Diocese of Tucson

Bishop of Diocese of the Diocese of Salina in Kansas becomes seventh Bishop of Tucson; Installation Mass Nov. 29

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has transferred **Bishop Edward Joseph Weisenburger** from the Diocese of Salina to the Diocese of Tucson, Ariz. The Holy See made the announcement today in Rome. Weisenburger was notified last week by the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Pierre Christophe, that Pope Francis was entrusting to him the pastoral care of the good people of the Diocese of Tucson.

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, sixth Bishop of Tucson, submitted his resignation in accord with Church law after having reached his 75th birthday. Following today, he will serve as the administrator of the Diocese until Weisenburger's installation. Weisenburger's appointment comes more than a year after Kicanas' offered his retirement.

Bishop Kicanas said, "We are blessed that the Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed as our seventh Bishop in the Diocese of Tucson, a caring and loving pastor and shepherd for our community. He will walk with us, listen to us and stand up for us. His many gifts will provide the pastoral leadership we need. He will be a collaborative worker with diocesan personnel, interfaith leaders and all those with responsibility in this vast diocese of 43,000 square miles."

Weisenburger served as a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for almost 25 years. On Feb. 6, 2012, he was appointed Bishop of Salina by Pope Benedict XVI. His ordination, which marked the beginning of his ministry, was on May 1, 2012, at Salina's Sacred Heart Cathedral. His installation as Bishop of Tucson will take place on Nov. 29, 2017.

The Diocese of Salina serves approximately 44,000 Catholics. The Diocese of Tucson, which borders with Mexico, serves approximately 450,000 Catholics, many of whom are Spanish-speaking. Weisenburger enjoys a working knowledge of Spanish and has always treasured his ministry with the Hispanic community. Weisenburger also has an intense concern and love for the well-being of migrants, refugees, and Native American peoples. He is humbled by Pope Francis' appointment and hopes to join with the bishops of Arizona and New Mexico in being an articulate and indispensable voice of compassion for all immigrants.

Weisenburger said, "I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of a shepherd who has served graciously and generously for many years. Bishop Kicanas has served in many national capacities for the Catholic Church and is highly esteemed. Knowing that he will continue to reside in our Diocese is a great comfort for me and a blessing for our people."

Please see attached biography for more information.

Curriculum Vitae:

Most Reverend Edward Joseph Weisenburger

Edward Weisenburger was born in Alton, Ill. on Dec. 23, 1960, to Edward John Weisenburger and Asella (Walters) Weisenburger, the third of their four surviving children. His father was a military officer and his mother a homemaker. Weisenburger grew up primarily in Lawton, Oklahoma, where he graduated from high school in 1979. He attended Conception Seminary College in Missouri, graduating with honors in 1983. He then attended the American College Seminary at the Catholic University of Louvain in Leuven, Belgium, earning the Pontifical S.T.B. in Theology, an M.A. in Religious Studies, and a Masters in Moral and Religious Sciences. In the spring of 1987, he returned to Oklahoma and began three years of ministry at St. Mary Church in Ponca City, Oka. On Dec. 19, 1987 he was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City by the Most Reverend Charles A. Salatka, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

Weisenburger attended the University of St. Paul in Ottawa, Canada from 1990-1992, earning the pontifical J.C.L. degree in canon law. Upon his return home he was appointed Vice-chancellor and Adjutant Judicial Vicar. In addition to chancery and tribunal duties he also did weekend parish and prison ministries from 1992 to 1995 and served as an on-site chaplain for rescue workers in the weeks following the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. In the fall of 1995 he began 17 years of service on the Council of Priests and the College of Consulters. He likewise served as a member of the Seminarian Board for fifteen years. In June of 1996 he was appointed Vicar General of the Oklahoma Archdiocese. He was an officer with the Archdiocesan Tribunal for almost 20 years and served as Promoter of Justice for the cause of canonization of Blessed Stanley Francis Rother. On Oct. 2, 2009 he was appointed a Prelate of Honor to His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, with the title *Reverend Monsignor*. Bishop Weisenburger served as pastor of two parishes: Holy Trinity in Okarche, Okla. (1995-2002) and the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City (2002-2012).

On Feb. 6, 2012, Weisenburger was appointed Bishop of Salina, Kansas, by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI. He was ordained a bishop at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Salina, on May 1, 2012, with the Most Reverend Joseph Naumann, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kansas City presiding. Co-consecrators were the Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop Emeritus of Oklahoma City, and the Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City. On October 3, 2017, Weisenburger was appointed Bishop of Tucson by His Holiness, Pope Francis.

Weisenburger enjoys membership in the Knights of Columbus as well as the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Conception Seminary College as well as the national Catholic Rural Life organization. When time permits

he enjoys reading and occasional travel.

Bishop Weisenburger's mother died on March 22, 1998, and his father died on December 22, 2013. The Bishop's siblings include a sister, Mrs. Mary Jung of Yukon, Oklahoma (her husband Don Jung, their three children and five grandchildren); a sister, Mrs. Adina Heller of Corinth, Texas (her husband Karl Heller and their two children); a brother, Mr. Timothy J. Weisenburger (and his wife Donna) of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; former sister-in-law Mary Weisenburger of Houston, Texas (and their son); and a sister who died at birth, Catherine Weisenburger.