



PRESS RELEASE

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Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger to ordain two men to priesthood

Ordination Mass will take place 10 a.m. Saturday, June 2 at St. Augustine Cathedral

Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger will ordain John Gonzales and Thomas Quirk as priests for the Diocese of Tucson.

Both men have served as transitional deacons during their last year of instruction, and for both men, their ordinations mark the beginning of a second vocation in life. Both lived secular lives until their entry into seminary.

Deacon Gonzales, 50, was trained in construction and went on to become an engineer working in the natural gas industry. Deacon Quirk, 41, holds a bachelor's degree in Arts Administration, and wanted to go into theater. He also wanted to be able to work in fundraising and administration for theater. He entered Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit in 1998, but wasn't quite ready to proceed and left after two years. All of this occurred in Michigan and Indianapolis. Deacon Quirk came to Tucson in 2007 to work at CODAC Behavior Healthcare, and as he applied to graduate school at Arizona State University to earn a master's degree in Social Work, the call to priesthood reached him again.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Tucson was created in 1897. It is comprised of 43,000 square miles with borders at the International Border with Mexico to the south; Payson, Arizona in the White Mountains to the north; nearly to the New Mexico state border to the east, and Yuma, Arizona to the West.

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